

St Martins C3 – March 22, 2026

Slaves to Freedom – The Power of the Cross

Sermon Notes:

The cross has the power to change the world and our lives. In this series, we focus on different ways of understanding what Jesus has done on the cross. This leaves us with a full picture of His finished work.

Read Mark 10:45

Today, we look at the Ransom Theory of the atonement. This is the idea that the cross (and the resurrection) has the power to redeem us (buy us back) into His Kingdom.

1 – Sin Makes Us Slaves

In Biblical times a ransom was a price that someone would pay for a slave. Jesus is saying that the cross was necessary to set free all who are enslaved by sin. Sin is more than just something we do, it is a spiritual force that controls and enslaves.

Read Colossians 1:13-14; James 1:14-15

Sin is part of the Kingdom of darkness, that grows like a cancer bringing death to all parts of a body. It is a system of oppression that is seen in our lives and all creation. All the brokenness of our world, from paedophiles to the outbreak of war, and includes the evil we sense in our own hearts.

We have no way of overcoming this oppression. The price is too great. We need someone to redeem us.

2 – Christ Pays for Our Freedom

Read 1 Timothy 2:6; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:15; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Leviticus 17:11; Romans 5:7-8

The consistent witness of the New Testament writers is that Jesus on the cross pays the price for our freedom. The cross is the full revelation of the heart of God because it shows the lengths He goes to buy back humanity!

God loves fully and completely. He has the will and the power to pay the price that was not His to pay. He did it to bring the world back to himself.

As we receive Him, we can be freed from the power of sin, death, and the devil. Why not step into freedom today?

3 – We can Live in Freedom

Read Romans 6

The result of all Jesus has done is a freedom that means we can enjoy a new relationship with God, now and in eternity.

Sin is not our master. We no longer need to be pulled to where it leads. We are given the power to resist it and learn how to untangle its ties from our life.

The power of the cross is to pay the ransom for our lives and to free us. Today, consider how you can leave behind the past and live with God as the Lord of your life.

Questions for Connect Groups:

Key Point

Jesus ransomed us by paying the price for our sin and making the way for us to experience freedom in Jesus.

Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

If someone were to ask you why Jesus died on the cross, what would you say?

What does Mark 10:45 mean to you?

How do you see the results of our world being slaves to sin?
How does it impact your life?

Why did Jesus need to give his life to pay the ransom?

What does the cross say about the nature of God?

What does it mean to be free in Christ?

If we are free, why do we struggle with sin in our lives?

What ways have you seen yourself find freedom from sin?

How can we pray for you to find freedom from sin or other difficulties in your life?

Monday Devotion: SOAP Bible Study

Baptism is a symbol of the work of Jesus on the cross. When we committed to Jesus we died to the old sinful way of life and were raised to that new life. Consider what things you have died to and what new life means for you.

Scripture: Romans 6:1-4

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Tuesday Devotion

One of the great victories of the cross was to free us from the power of sin. Of course, we still struggle with sinning but its grip is just the grip of a desperate dying creature that is close to its last breath.

Scripture

Romans 6:5-11

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Wednesday Devotion

Now that sin's grip on us is weaker we can confidently work to ensure it does not control the way we live. We know that as we give ourselves completely to God we can walk away from the draw of sin on us. Say it with me: "Sin is not my master!"

Scripture

Romans 6:12-18

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Thursday Devotion

Paul continues his exploration into this movement for Christians from sinfulness to life in Christ. He uses the analogy of slavery to show that when we become a Christian, it is like a slave changing owners. The big difference is that our old master brought us death, but the new master brings only life.

Scripture

Romans 6:19-23

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Friday Devotion

In Romans 7, Paul goes on to continue his argument by looking at the relationship between the law and sin. In the verses we explore, he looks at the common issue that both Christians and non-Christians face – their inability not to sin. As he shows, the solution for all is the same – Jesus!

Scripture

Romans 7:14-25

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)
