

Preaching Series for Lent and Easter 2015

Series Title: Scandalized

When Jesus predicts his disciples abandoning him he says they will be offended because of him. The Greek word used is the same word we get our word scandalized from. Literally, the disciples will be scandalized by Jesus and his cross. This theme can be seen through Matthew as Jesus turns his face to Jerusalem, to the cross and lets his disciples know that his being the Messiah means he must be put to death, but will be raised to new life. The disciples attempt to rebuke Jesus, continue to misunderstand him by seeking to share his coming power, and ultimately abandon him when the reality of Jesus' arrest makes clear the words Jesus has been using.

Lent is a time in the Christian year when we prepare to face the reality of the cross that Jesus took up and died on. We too are scandalized by the cross of Jesus and just like his first disciples we struggle with confusion, with a desire for power, and a fear of what Jesus' death might mean for us. Lent then is a time of preparation for us to think deeply of who Jesus is and what his death and resurrection mean in our life and our world. Our prayer is that through the Spirit and disciplined preparation, we might stand and be scandalized with Christ rather than apart from him.

DATE	TEXT	PREACHER
Ash Wednesday February 18, 2015	Matthew 16:21-28	David
1st Sunday of Lent February 22, 2015	Matthew 17:1-13, 22-23	Communion Sunday David
2nd Sunday of Lent March 1, 2015	Matthew 18:1-5	David
3rd Sunday of Lent March 8, 2015	Matthew 19:16-30	David
4th Sunday of Lent March 15, 2015	Matthew 20:1-19	Belinda
5th Sunday of Lent March 22, 2015	Matthew 20:20-28	David
Palm Sunday March 29, 2015	Matthew 21:1-11	Communion Sunday Darryl
Good Friday April 3, 2015	Various Texts in Matthew	David
Easter Sunday April 5, 2015	Matthew 28:1-10	David