

## Who Pays the Debt?

Mark 14:32-15:38

**Ice Breaker:** In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the New York Times did an essay contest – offering a prize to whoever wrote the most compelling essay as to the reason why the world is such a mess. The philosopher G.K. Chesterton, won the contest with a two-word essay. “I am,” he wrote. Do you think that essay would still win in today’s culture? Why or why not?

**Big Idea:** No matter what you’ve done, no matter how large the accumulated debt of your sin, the good news is that what Christ did on the cross is sufficient for all of it to be forgiven.

### Digging Deeper:

1) Read Mark 14:32-36 – especially noting what Jesus about “the cup.” Isaiah 51:17 talks about “the cup of God’s wrath” being poured out upon humanity’s sins. Is Jesus just afraid of the physical pain of being crucified, or is there something else that He’s recoiling from?

2) Read Mark 15:25-31 – especially what the mockers say to Jesus about “saving yourself” vs “saving others.” How do those mocking Jesus speak the truth more than they realize?

3) Read Mark 15:33-34. Given what Paul says was happening (at the cross) in 2 Corinthians 5:21 – why did the Father turn His face away from Jesus – as Jesus died? How do you think this pain compared to the physical pain that Jesus endured?

4) Pastor Joshua mentioned that the significance of Jesus’ final cry: “It is finished!” – is that it was a commercial term that literally meant: “the debt has been paid in full.” What does that have to say to those of us (all of us) who have racked up a sin debt against God?

5) No matter what you’ve done, no matter how large the accumulated debt of your sin, the good news is that what Christ did on the cross is sufficient for all of it to be forgiven. Do you truly believe that? Is your life marked by the kind of gratitude that should mark someone who has been forgiven a debt that we could never repay? Pray that it would be.