

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM JULY 14, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Mark 14:61-64

Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” And Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.” Tearing his clothes, the high priest said, “What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?” And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.”



A common name for Jesus in the Gospel of Mark is the Son of Man. The term comes from the Book of Daniel and is associated with great power, glory and forth coming judgment. Judaism in the time of Christ saw the Son of Man as someone who would be a supernatural man who would transcend the suffering of the Jewish community because He would possess the power and exaltation they lacked. And yet when Jesus claims the title, it is the testimony which seals His fate before the High Priest.

In Mark, we see the Son of Man associated with power that is blended with suffering and weakness. Jesus openly declares He is the Messiah only when there is no possibility the crowds will rise up and crown Him king. His admission is the only evidence the Sanhedrin has to convict Jesus of blasphemy and secure a sentence of death. This was not the Messiah they wanted. Jesus as Messiah is far less than they hoped because He never raised a finger against Roman authority and passively submits to the beating of the religious elite and a sentence of death.

It is easy to conclude Jesus is the victim of great injustice, false evidence and a rigged jury. But nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus was the Son of Man and was in complete control of everything that took place. Jesus was under no compulsion to testify against Himself, and the false witnesses were doing just fine shooting themselves in the foot. If Jesus chose too, He could have shredded the charges against Him just as He dismantled the traps set to trip Him up while He was teaching in the temple. Jesus is not going to argue over trivia or petty charges. Jesus would testify when it came to the critical issue of who is Jesus Christ. Is He the divine Messiah? Is He truly the Son of God?

As Messiah, Jesus was far more than anyone hoped. In the most devastating and chaotic time in all human history, Jesus is in charge. God's power is seen in weakness and Jesus demonstrates the power of God. He is bringing about His death, in His time and in His way. Anyone looking for mighty displays of power, miraculous feats or startling prophecies will see nothing. But those who connect the dots see the Son of Man, orchestrating the events of this kangaroo court to accomplish the will of God. And the will of God will be completed when the Son of Man returns with the clouds of heaven to judge those rejected Him and the His calling to be the Lamb of God.

Sunrise Community Church

Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst

EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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JULY 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	23	24	25	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

Hymn of the Week

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

<http://www.hymntime.com/>

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/o/l/d/oldruggc.htm>

The Old Rugged Cross

“The cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 6:1

Words & Music: **George Bennard, 1913**

The Old Rugged Cross was written in Albion, Michigan. Or Pokagon, Michigan. Or Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. All three towns claim to be the birthplace of this hymn.

George Bennard (1873-1958)



On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and
best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the
world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

Refrain

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so
divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and
died,
To pardon and sanctify me.

Refrain

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far
away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

Refrain

SEE YOU SUNDAY AT SUNRISE

July 2013

- July 14 8:45 a.m.** Pastor Andrew Kikkert – Mark 14:53-72
Mission Impossible
- 10:30 a.m.** Second Hour
- July 19 7:00 p.m.** Game Night
- July 21 8:45 a.m.** Pastor Andrew Kikkert – Mark 15:1-21
Pilate, Politics & the Prince
- 10:30 a.m.** Second Hour
- July 26 6:30 p.m.** Friday Night Fellowship
- July 28 8:45 a.m.** Pastor Andrew Kikkert – Mark 16:1-20
He is Alive!
- 10:45 a.m.** Second Hour

No information about Christian converts arrested in Iran, continued pressure on members of evangelical churches

[HTTP://WWW.IRANHUMANRIGHTS.ORG/](http://www.iranhumanrights.org/)

One month after the arrest of three Christian converts in Isfahan, their conditions remain unknown and there is no news about their fate. According to reports from the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran's sources, since the May 29 arrests of Mohammad Reza Farid, Saeed Safi, and Hamid Reza Ghadiri, their families have been unable to obtain any information about their conditions, and the judicial and police authorities have not provided them with any information about the reasons for their arrests, their detention conditions, or their charges.

Plainclothes forces raided the home of Hamidreza Ghanbari during a worship session by Christian converts, and arrested Mohammad Reza Farid, Saeed Safi, and Hamid Reza Ghadiri.

According to reports, the forces treated those present at the worship session violently, and confiscated identification cards and information about the group before arresting the three men. During recent weeks, security forces have contacted a number of those present and asked them questions about the three detained men, threatening them with arrest if they refuse to answer questions.

A local source told the Campaign that the families' efforts to pursue the cases at judicial, security, and police centers have been fruitless. Mohammad Reza Farid and Saeed Safi are Afghan Christian converts and managed the "Our Salvation" Web site, which was blocked by the Iranian cyber police.

Pressure on Christian converts and Evangelical Christians has increased over the recent months again, and in addition to arrests, Persian-language churches have also been closed down under pressure from the Intelligence Ministry. On May 26, security forces and plainclothes agents arrested Pastor Robert Asseriyani, a leader from Tehran's Assemblies of God Church, during a worship ceremony. The Assemblies of God Church, Tehran's oldest Persian-language church, was also shut down under pressure by intelligence forces.

In an earlier interview, Mansour Borji, a spokesperson for the Article 18 initiative of the United Council of Iranian Churches (Hamgaam) and an Iranian Christians rights defender, explained why the church and its leaders have been targeted for harassment. "It's because this church's services are held in the Persian language and they don't want non-Christians to participate in them. They are afraid that the number of Christian converts will grow.



**Pray
for the
Persecuted
Church**