

Christ at the Crossroad of Misunderstanding

(Mark 3:20-26)

Introduction: Seat belts and air bags have gone a long way toward protecting lives in collisions. But there's no patented safety device that will protect us in one of life's most common collisions--misunderstandings.

My Notes:

I. Misunderstood? You Are Not Alone

- A) Examples from life.
- B) Examples from scripture.
 1. Joseph
 2. David

II. Misunderstood? Meet Him Who Understands

- A) Misunderstood by the _____ (Mark 3:1-6).
- B) Misunderstood by His own _____ (Mark 3:20-21).
- C) Misunderstood by the _____ (Mark 3:22-26).
- D) Misunderstood by His _____ (Mark 3:31-35).

III. Misunderstood? Here's Help to Get You Through

- A) First, when misunderstanding occurs, ask _____?
 1. Consider the source.
 2. Try to see things from the other person's perspective.
- B) Second, if it continues, ask _____?
 1. Examine the reason.
 2. Are you doing something without realizing it?
A blind spot perhaps?
- C) Third, as it ends, ask _____?
 1. Learn the lessons.
 2. Did you learn something about yourself that needs changing?
- D) Those questions are useless, however, without _____.

Conclusion: Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "To be great is to be misunderstood." To be greater, however, is to forgive the one who misunderstood. Jesus was not only the greatest man to ever live, but also the most misunderstood, and the most forgiving, even as He hung unjustly on the cross (Luke 23:34). Trusting in Him doesn't protect us from being hit with misunderstandings, but it will enable us to survive them, to repair the damage, and to heal the wounds through forgiveness.

