



“Justification Part 2: His Story”

DIVINE DICTIONARY

Small Group Plan

When someone is beginning to tell a joke they often start with the words, “I’ve got some good news and some bad news.” But, I think we all know that most humor is rooted somewhere in real life. And often the taproot is buried in something that is not at all funny ... like human failure, pain, or tragedy.

This is the case in part 2 of our study on “Justification.” And we go to a book where we can see the roots of both the “good news” and “bad news.” Romans is a thoughtfully deep book. And, as several writers have said, “If you get Romans, God gets you.”

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Have you ever had to give “bad news” to someone? How did you do it?
- On the other hand, have you ever had the joy of giving someone “good news?” How did it feel?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

STATUS REPORT

The Bad News In Romans 5

<i>“Powerless”</i>	<i>“Death”</i>
<i>“Ungodly”</i>	<i>“Trespass”</i>
<i>“Wrath”</i>	<i>“Judgment”</i>
<i>“Enemies”</i>	<i>“Condemnation”</i>
<i>“Sin”</i>	<i>“Disobedience”</i>

- As a group, look through Romans 5 and quickly find all of these words.
- Now, give a short working definition for each word.
- Personally, which words give you the most ominous feeling? Why?
- If these were the only words in the chapter, what would be the theme of Romans 5?

STATUS CHANGE

The Good News In Romans 5

<i>"Justified"</i>	<i>"Reconciled"</i>
<i>"Faith"</i>	<i>"Saved"</i>
<i>"Peace"</i>	<i>"Gift"</i>
<i>"Grace"</i>	<i>"Life"</i>
<i>"Hope"</i>	<i>"Obedience"</i>
<i>"Joy"</i>	<i>"Righteous"</i>
<i>"Love"</i>	<i>"Eternal life"</i>

- As a group, once again, quickly find each word in Romans 5 and talk about them. What do they mean?
- Is there one or more that you respond to personally? Explain.
- How do you explain how these two sets of words can sit side by side in the same chapter?

STATUS RELATIONSHIP

How The Bad Changed To Good In Romans 5

"through our lord Jesus Christ"
"through whom we have gain access"
"by his blood"
"through him!"
"through the death of his son"
"through his life"
"through our lord Jesus Christ"
"through whom"
"by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ"
"through the one man, Jesus Christ"
"through the obedience of the one man"
"through Jesus Christ our lord"

- As a group, help each other to find each of these phrases.
- Why does Paul repeat the same thought over and over?
- Which of these phrases point specifically to the cross?
- How does the cross of Jesus change "Bad News" to "Good News?"
- Explain, "the grace" and "the obedience" of "the one man."

STATUS SYMBOL

Reenacting The Cross in Romans 6

"buried WITH HIM"
"WITH HIM like this in his death"
"WITH HIM in his resurrection"
"Crucified WITH HIM"

*“we died WITH CHRIST”
“we will also live WITH HIM”*

- Identify all of the “cross” words in these phrases.
- How is our baptism a reenactment of Jesus’ cross?
- When we are “crucified with him” what actually dies?
- When we are raised and “live with him” describe the new life.

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Why does Paul want them to remember a “powerless” life?
Why is it important that we remember it?
- What happens to our view of “Good News” if we forget the “Bad News?”
- What can we do each day to remember where we’ve come from and how Jesus is changing us?
- How can the Lord’s Supper be a place to review our life and give a heart-felt “thank you?”
- Begin your closing prayer with a time of silence for all to remember their personal rescue from “powerlessness.”