



**Romans 5:12-21**  
Death or Jesus? March 23<sup>rd</sup> - March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Warm-up:** What are some of the funny things you feared when you were a child?

- Which is greater: Death or Jesus Christ? Fear of death is an issue that plagues many people. Generally speaking when someone says that have an “issue” with Christianity, they are making that particular issue supreme in their life. Read **Hebrews 2:14-15** closely.
  - What exactly are these verses saying?
  - In what ways do you see the issue of death hampering both Christians and pre-Christians in their pursuit of God?
- Read **Romans 5:12-21** aloud. After some moments of reflection, turn to the person next to you and discuss what impressed you *most* in these verses. Share with the rest of the group.
- Reflect upon each of the following four truths about death based on **Genesis 3:1-7**. How does each of these truths impact you personally? 1. Death is separation. Physical death is separation of spirit and body. Spiritual death is eternal separation from God. 2. Death is an enemy of God, not a friend. 3. Death was not God’s will but man’s choice. 4. Death is a natural consequence of sin.
- Peace with God was recovered the same way it was lost—by the actions of one man. Jesus Christ appeared as the “second Adam” to gain, through *obedience*, what Adam lost through *disobedience*. (Rom. 5:15-21)
  - How is Jesus bigger than death? (5:15)
  - What is the difference between Adam’s sin and the gift of justification brought about by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? (5:16)
  - In **5:17**, Paul contrasts the reign of death with the reign of life. Adam’s kingdom was short lived as Paul emphasized in **1 Cor. 15:25-26**. Christ’s reign of life will last forever and ever (**Revelation 22:5**). How are you moved by this reality?

**Wrap-up:** Close by reading **Romans 5:17**. Discuss 2 specific ways you plan to appropriate God’s wonderful “**grace and his gift of righteousness**” this week.