

## Adult Bible Studies

### Current Events Supplement June 9, 2019

### Jesus Seal the New Covenant Mark 15:6-15, 25-26, 33-39

Jim Ford works as a repo man, repossessing cars when owners are late with their payments. Stan and Pat Kipping are an elderly couple in Red Bud, Illinois, who were struggling to pay their bills, including the \$100 a month payment for their Buick. After repossessing the Kippings' car, Ford said, "They are like America's grandparents. . . . I made it a block before I pulled over and called the bank. And I asked them if I could pay off the past due amount." Ford returned the couple's car a few days later, after changing the oil and getting the car detailed. He also started a GoFundMe campaign, which allowed him to pay off the car loan and give the Kippings a gift of more than \$17,000 for the other bills they had. Pat said of Ford, "There's good people out there. He's our guardian angel."<sup>1</sup>

The student book author writes, "God's power to transform lives is like that: It comes to us when we least expect it and offers a radically new way to see, to live, and to love."<sup>2</sup> The centurion at the cross witnessed in Jesus' death a radical new way to live and to love, through God's own Son. Jesus came not only to extend God's gift of salvation but to transform lives. Living as followers of Jesus Christ, we expect God to transform our lives in radical ways.

A repo man sees many people in need of financial assistance or planning. But in the case of Stan and Pat Kipping, Jim Ford also saw two people who just needed a little love. Thankfully, Ford engaged others in his effort to help "America's grandparents." Ford and others transformed the lives of the Kippings. No doubt, though, seeing and loving the Kippings in a radical way transformed the lives of those who gave. Their story transforms our lives, too, as we see the love of Christ lived out in a radical way.

1. How was the centurion's experience at the cross unexpected and radical?
2. How do believers expect God to transform their lives?
3. When do we underestimate God's power to transform our lives?

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<sup>1</sup>From "Elderly Couple Grateful for Repo Man With Heart of Gold," by Steve Hartman, CBS Evening News ([cbsnews.com/news/elderly-couple-grateful-for-wonderful-repo-man-who-took-their-car-away/](http://cbsnews.com/news/elderly-couple-grateful-for-wonderful-repo-man-who-took-their-car-away/)).

<sup>2</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Summer 2019, by Kevin Baker (Cokesbury, 2019); page 17.