



Sermon Discussion Questions

March 24, 2024

Jesus in Jerusalem

CRUCIFIED!

Luke 23:26-49

1. **Opening Discussion Questions** (in a group setting you will probably only want to do one of these questions)
 - a. To the extent you are comfortable doing so, share about the most grievous offense you have forgiven someone for committing against you? What brought you to the point that you were willing to forgive?
 - b. Have you ever been forced to do something that you absolutely did not want to do? Share the details. How did it make you feel and how did it influence your relationship to the one forcing you?
 - c. Have you ever, perhaps as a child or teen, done something really scary because of a dare or taunt? Why are the challenges others make such a powerful force that they cause us to do “crazy” things?
2. **Sermon Outline/Key Points**
 - a. Jesus was Crucified with Forgiveness in His Heart
 - i. Jesus suffered on the way to the cross.
 - ii. Jesus suffered terribly on the cross.
 - iii. Jesus forgave those who crucified Him.
 - b. Jesus Didn't Save Himself in Order to Save You
 - i. Over and over, onlookers challenged Jesus to save Himself.
 - ii. Jesus suffered for your sins and mine
 - iii. The other criminal understood – believe in Jesus and be saved.
 - c. The Son of God Died to End Your Separation from God
 - i. The dramatic death of Jesus emphasized He is God's Son.
 - ii. Jesus took God's wrath for your sin so you could be reconciled to God.
3. **Study/Discussion Points:**
 - a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to prayerfully ponder these questions:
 - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
 - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
 - iv. What is one specific thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?

- v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. **Monday** – *Jesus was Crucified.*
 - i. This week’s focal passage, along with the parallel passages in the other Gospels, should be among the most powerful and sobering of the Bible. Today, just read each of the four accounts of Jesus’ crucifixion slowly and meditatively keeping in mind as you read that “Jesus bore all of this for me”:
 1. Luke 23:26-49
 2. Matthew 27:33-56
 3. Mark 15:22-41
 4. John 19:17-30
- c. **Tuesday** – *Jesus was Crucified with Forgiveness in His Heart*
 - i. Think about the passages you read yesterday – or even better, reread them.
 1. What is the overall tone of these four accounts? Does it differ from what you would have expected from those writing? What do you make of the seemingly unemotional nature of the descriptions?
 2. What details are not included that we might have expected from our experiences watching/reading modern news reports?
 3. Much has been written and preached describing crucifixion. Why do you think the Holy Spirit included no such details when He inspired these four authors?
 4. What unique facts or insight do you find in each of the four accounts?
 5. Combining the four accounts we find that Jesus spoke seven things while on the cross. Make a list of the seven in the chronological order you see from reading the four passages. What is the significance/meaning to you of each statement?
 - ii. Only Luke records Jesus speaking to the mourning women and the multitude of people that were following. Read Luke 23:27-31.
 1. In your own words what was Jesus telling them?
 2. Twice before Jesus had spoken a lament for Jerusalem. Compare these verses with Luke 13:34-35 and 19:41-44.
 3. How might these words of Jesus apply to people today?
- d. **Wednesday** – *Jesus was Crucified with Forgiveness in His Heart*
 - i. Several of these passages tell us that the soldiers made Simon of Cyrene carry Jesus’ cross.
 1. What do the details provided in Mark 15:21 suggest about Simon and his son’s future status (see also Romans 16:13)? How do you think this experience may have impacted the rest of Simon’s life?
 2. Considering Luke 9:23, how are we fundamentally different from Simon? What choice can/must we make that he was denied? How should carrying our cross change us?

- ii. The first recorded words that Jesus spoke from the cross (see Tuesday's study) capture the very reason Jesus was allowing Himself to be crucified.
 1. When you read this sentence who do you think Jesus is referring to with the pronoun "them"? What is the least inclusive reference? The most inclusive? The most likely?
 2. Jesus taught us some things that are often hard to apply in our lives. Read Luke 6:27-28. How do Jesus' words demonstrate the ultimate application of this teaching? How do you think Isaiah 53:12 relates to this statement?
 3. Some have mistakenly taught that the forgiveness Jesus requested in this statement must have been universal, so all will be/are saved. How does Acts 3:17-19 demonstrate that this was never the accepted belief by the apostles or early church? How do John 3:15 and Romans 10:9-10 validate this understanding?
 4. While Jesus Himself could not have prayed His model prayer in Luke 11:2-4, when we do so how does it figuratively relate (take us) to the point Jesus was at when He prayed for their forgiveness?

e. **Thursday** – *In Order to Save You Jesus Didn't Save Himself*

- i. The accounts as presented in Matthew, Mark and Luke all emphasize how others (the soldiers, the two criminals, the rulers and the people) responded to Jesus as He was crucified.
 1. How would you summarize their response?
 2. How does Psalm 22:6-8 relate to the way people responded?
 3. What would have made the challenges of Luke 23:35 and 37 particularly difficult (see Matthew 26:53)?
 4. Compare these taunts with Satan's temptation in Matthew 4:6. What does it suggest is actually going on here? Why was it necessary that the temptations Jesus faced continue even on the cross (see Hebrews 4:15 and 2:18)? In a general sense, when will a person likely face his/her greatest temptation?
- ii. To some, one of the most unexpected parts of the crucifixion accounts is the emphasis that is placed on what happened to His clothing. Luke provides 1 sentence (verse 34b) while John dedicates 2 long verses.
 1. Why do you think the Holy Spirit included this seemingly insignificant sidebar?
 2. When John points us back to Psalm 22 what is he telling us?
 3. Read Psalm 22 comparing it to the crucifixion accounts.
- iii. Jesus' last words from the cross, echoing Psalm 31:5, are found in Luke 23:46. What do they tell us about how (not the physical means but the emotional/mental state) He died (see John 10:17-18, Philippians 2:8, Hebrews 5:8, & 1 Corinthians 15:54-55)?

f. **Friday** – *In Order to Save You Jesus Didn't Save Himself*

- i. Two rebels (criminals) were crucified with Jesus. John only mentions them is passing but both Matthew (27:44) and Mark (15:32) tell of their initial reaction/response to Jesus. What was that first response?
- ii. Luke provides far more detail of what happened later. Read Luke 23:39-43.
 1. What was the first rebel's primary concern? Where did that get him?
 2. What change of heart is demonstrated by the second rebel (verse 41)? How is this rebel showing fulfillment of the requirements of Romans 10:9-10 and 1 John 1:9?
 3. Since there does not seem to have been any exchange between Jesus and the rebel before this time how do you explain the rebel's change of heart? How do you think John 6:44 explains this unexpected change?
 4. What is Jesus' response? What did the rebel do to earn his new status? How does it show us the validity of Ephesians 2:8?
 5. How do the responses of the two rebels show the truth of John 3:16-18?
 6. Based on this account how should we view death-bed conversions – especially those that are made by criminals just before their execution?
- g. *Saturday – The Son of God Died to End Your Separation from God*
 - i. Having focused on the crucifixion some may ask a fairly obvious question, “Why was it necessary for Christ to die?” Read and meditate on these passages to develop your own answer:
 1. Matthew 26:39
 2. Luke 24:25-27
 3. Hebrews 2:17 and 9:23-26 (look up the definition of “propitiation”)
 4. 1 John 2:2 and 4:10
 - ii. End this week's study by reading and meditating on Romans 3:21-26
4. **Application:** There are only two possible responses to the crucifixion and resurrection (next week's topic) – those demonstrated by the two rebels:
 - a. If you are like the first and are currently rejecting His rightful place in your life, please seriously consider contacting one of the pastors, deacons or some other Christians to learn how you too can be forgiven.
 - b. If you are already a Christian, have you truly applied the instructions of Luke 9:23 in your life. If you cannot answer “yes”, consider joining in one of the many discipleship-making opportunities at LRBC.

5. Prayer Points:

- a. **A**doration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. **C**onfession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. **T**hanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. **S**upplications –Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19