

SEEING THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

Luke 23:26-49

- Simon of Cyrene shows us that the cross Jesus carried for us becomes our path of **DISCIPLESHIP** behind him.
Luke 23:26
- The mourning women show us that the cross is not merely a tragedy to pity, but a warning of **JUDGMENT** to come.
Luke 23:27-31
- The mockers show us that Jesus saved us by **REFUSING** to save Himself.
Luke 23:32-39
- The criminal's repentant **FAITH** reveals that the cross saves sinners by sheer **GRACE**.
Luke 23:39-43
- Creation and the centurion testify that Jesus's innocent death bore God's **JUDGMENT** and **OPENED** the way into God's Presence.
Luke 23:44-49

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Read Luke 23:26. How does Simon illustrate Jesus' earlier call to "take up your cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23, 14:27)? What does carrying the cross look like for you in this season of life?
2. Read Luke 23:27-31. Why does Jesus redirect the women's emotion? What does this teach us about the relationship between God's mercy and God's judgment? How can we guard against sentimental Christianity that mourns for Jesus, but does not see His saving power?
3. Read Luke 23:32-34. What stands out to you about Jesus praying, "Father, forgive them," while He is being crucified? What does this reveal about His character and His heart toward sinners?
4. Read Luke 23:35-39. The rulers, soldiers, and criminal all repeat the same challenge: "Save yourself." Why was refusing to save Himself necessary for Jesus to save us? How does substitutionary atonement help you understand the cross?
5. Read Luke 23:39-43. What evidences of genuine repentance do you see in the believing criminal? What does he understand about himself, about God, and about Jesus? What does this account teach us about grace and salvation? How does it challenge both pride and despair? (See also Ephesians 2:8-9)
6. Read Luke 23:44-47. How do the darkness, the torn curtain, Jesus' final words, and the centurion's confession help us understand the meaning of Jesus' death? How should these truths affect the way we approach God, trust Him, and worship Him today?
7. The final question of the sermon was: "What do you see when you look at the cross?" How would you answer that question today?

