



The Way of the Cross
Luke 23:26-56

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What will we learn

- ❖ The Gospel appeals to outsiders.
- ❖ Success and power tend to lead to spiritual blindness.
- ❖ You must come to Jesus empty-handed.
- ❖ Jesus endured the judgment of God, so we can be with him.
- ❖ When we truly understand what Jesus has done for us, it will transform us.

Implications of the Last Supper:

- ❖ The death of Jesus is the center of history.
- ❖ The death and resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of a new kind of community.
- ❖ The death of Jesus explains the mystery of the Jewish sacrificial system.
- ❖ You must respond to Jesus individually.

Garden of Gethsemane

- ❖ The sins of Judas and Peter are not uncommon.
- ❖ The big difference between Judas and Peter is Peter's repentance.
- ❖ Jesus was abandoned by all so we can be accepted by God.

Trials of Jesus

- ❖ The wisdom of Jesus is not from the left or the right, but from above.
- ❖ The power of the gospel does not come from control, but from sacrifice.
- ❖ At the cross, we exchange our unrighteousness for the righteousness of Jesus.

Luke 23:26-27

As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

Luke 23:28

Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.”

Luke 23:29-30

“For the time will come when you will say,
‘Blessed are the childless women, the
wombs that never bore and the breasts that
never nursed!’ Then

“they will say to the mountains,

“Fall on us!”

and to the hills, “Cover us!””

Luke 23:31

“For if people do these things when
the tree is green, what will happen
when it is dry?”

Luke 23:32-33

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals — one on his right, the other on his left.

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Luke 23:35

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

Luke 23:36-37

The soldiers also came up and mocked him.
They offered him wine vinegar and said,
“If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

Luke 23:38

There was a written notice above him,
which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Luke 23:39

One of the criminals who hung there
hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the
Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

Luke 23:40-41

But the other criminal rebuked him.

“Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Luke 23:42-43

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:44-45

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Luke 23:46

Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father,
into your hands I commit my spirit.”
When he had said this,
he breathed his last.

Luke 23:47

The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

Luke 23:48-49

When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Luke 23:50-51

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God.

Luke 23:52-54

Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body.
Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.
It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

Luke 23:55-56

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Who understands Jesus?

- ❖ Thief #2 (verse 40)
- ❖ The centurion (verse 47)
- ❖ Women from Galilee (verses 55-56)
- ❖ Joseph of Arimathea (verses 50-52)

How to receive Jesus:

- ❖ Separate from the herd and think for yourself.
- ❖ See the motivations of your heart.
- ❖ Connect your incompatible, illogical impulses.

Two responses to Jesus:

- ❖ Thief #1: “I will follow you if ...”
- ❖ Thief #2: I deserve this, but “remember me”

Two prayers:

- ❖ Typical (wrong): “Lord, fix this situation, and I will follow you.”
- ❖ Better: “Lord, I choose you, and I believe that you will empower me to handle this however it turns out.”

Luke 23:41-42

“We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Which one defies logic?

- ❖ I deserve to be punished, so punish me.
- ❖ I deserve to be rewarded, so reward me.
- ❖ I deserve to be punished, so reward me.

Joel 2:31

The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great
and dreadful day of the Lord.

Amos 8:9

“In that day,” declares the Sovereign LORD,
“I will make the sun go down at noon
and darken the earth in broad daylight.”

Zephaniah 1:15

That day will be a day of wrath —
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of trouble and ruin,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and blackness —

Luke 23:44

It was now about noon, and darkness
came over the whole land until three
in the afternoon,

Luke 23:43

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you,
today you will be with me in paradise."

Romans 6:4

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:5

For if we have been united with him
in a death like his, we will certainly
also be united with him in a
resurrection like his.

Ephesians 2:4-5

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.

Romans 8:1-2

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

John 17:20-21

[Jesus]: “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

Colossians 3:8-10

But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Colossians 3:1-2

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.



Tim Keller:

“To the degree you understand what Jesus has done for you, you will be like him.”

What have we learned?

- ❖ The Gospel appeals to outsiders.
- ❖ Success and power tend to lead to spiritual blindness.
- ❖ You must come to Jesus empty-handed.
- ❖ Jesus endured the judgment of God, so we can be with him.
- ❖ When we truly understand what Jesus has done for us, it will transform us.

Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper