

I. Focused - Luke 23:33-34

1. The Skull (**verse 33**)
 - Jewish leaders are “they” - the entire party
 - “Calvary” means skull
2. Along with criminals - right and left
 - Rea -they meant this type thing as a slur, but Jesus took pride in being a friend of sinners
3. Father forgive them (**verse 34**)
 - divided his clothes
 - Rea -“clothes” depicts the utter humiliation and degradation they heap on Him
 - the reason to forgive?? - they don’t know what they are doing
 - Rea -it is very often true that people do not realize the depth of what they do, or even that they are sinning against someone
 - Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Jesus loves all, even at this terrible death
 - forgiveness for all, death with sinners
 2. God’s will is working its way out - they don’t get it... do you?

II. Mocked - Luke 23:35-39

1. The people watched (**verse 35**)
 - supporters and detractors both
 - the “rulers” are included in the “watchers” - if He is the Christ let Him save Himself
 - Rea -a totally different idea of what “Messiah” means
 - Rea -discuss that word “Messiah” - what does it mean?
2. Messiah
 - A. To the Jews - to save them from Rome and make them a mighty nation - a political way to look at “savior”
 - B. To others - to save them from their sins - a spiritual way to look at “savior”
3. The rulers were making fun of Him
4. The soldiers also mocked Him (**verse 36**)
 - wine vinegar offered
5. The soldiers say the same thing that the “rulers” said - save yourself (**verse 37**)
 - the people should rescue you
6. The sign above Him read “This is the King of the Jews” (**verse 38**)
 - a military/ political mocking
7. One of the criminals mock (**verse 39**)
 - save yourself, and us
 - Mt. 27:44 says that at first both goaded Him
- Rea 8. Mockers:
 - rulers
 - soldiers
 - criminals
 - to be laughed at is a punishment in itself

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. What would you have said?
2. Physical death was not the worst part of Jesus' death on the cross
3. All these mocking His claim simply repeated His claim
 - critics of the gospels used to relate that Jesus never claimed to be the Messiah - what, then, do we do with these verses when everyone knows that He claimed to be Messiah?
4. Discuss the ways in which we can understand the word "Messiah"

III. Trusted - Luke 23:40-43

1. Don't you fear God? (**Verse 40**)
 - one criminal to the other
 - they understand they get what they deserve
2. By contrast Jesus did not deserve this (**verse 41**)
3. Remember me (**verse 42**)
 - "your kingdom"
4. You will be with me in paradise (**verse 43**)
 - paradise and heaven are generally used of the same place - see Rev. 2:7
 - so "paradise" is not just a holding tank until heaven opens up

Rea
Rea

Ideas and Questions:

1. Two thieves - one went up and one went down
2. In picturesque fashion the dividing line between up and down is the man in the middle
3. A last opportunity to do right - right at the end of their lives
4. They are dying, but not so "dead" that they cannot talk about the meaning of Jesus
5. So...forgiveness for the crowd and paradise for the thief

IV. Sacrificed - Luke 23:44-46

1. Darkness at noon (**verse 44**) - until three
2. How did that happen? - the sun stopped shining (**verse 45**)
 - the sun stopped in Joshua's battle against the Amorites - Josh 10:12-13
3. The curtain is torn in two
 - a veil to separate the holy of holies from the rest of the Temple
 - Jesus' flesh was torn to provide access to God

Rea

- prior to this the Holy of Holies was off limits to all - a sequestered place - just for the High Priest
4. Jesus calls out (**verse 46**)

Rea

- He entrusted His spirit into the Father's hands
- His life was not taken, but given - there's a big difference - one represents a "savior" who's plans went wrong and He got caught. The other is the climax to a self-giving life.

Rea

Ideas and Questions:

1. Discuss the signs that point to Jesus being Messiah - like the sun going dark
2. Discuss the significance of the "veil" being torn - cross reference with the book of Hebrews
3. Jesus' blood was not "spilt" as the hymn says, His blood was poured out
 - "spilt" is accidental

- “poured out” is intentional
- 4. Right up to the end Jesus was a person of character
- 5. Discuss His merciful attitude toward these two criminals

Jere Phillips - SS Lesson for May 16, 2021