

Study Guide - 28 Mar 2021

Series: Luke

Text: Luke 23:18-43



This guide will help you facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Look at the Big Idea and Takeaway for our CGs sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the [text notes](#) on the passage.

Overview

Context of Luke

Luke the Greek physician was Paul's companion during his mission in proclaiming the gospel. Luke wrote this gospel as the first volume of a single work, consisting of The Gospel Of Luke and Acts. Both volumes are addressed to Theophilus and are written in a similar style. The Book of Acts refers to The Gospel Of Luke in its introduction. As a Greek and later a companion of Paul, Luke had never met Jesus personally, yet as a scholar and physician, he set upon the task to interview and record the events of the life of Jesus, according to Jesus' close companions and earliest eyewitnesses (1:1-4). Luke's gospel is, therefore, the most detailed, and it contains the most material of the three synoptic gospels.

Big Idea

Jesus dies in the place of sinners to save them.

CG Takeaway

To reckon with the fact that we are the criminals that deserve to be crucified and meditate on how Jesus took our place on the Cross.

Fallen Condition Focus

- Not seeing that our deepest need is to be saved from our sin (e.g. thinking instead that our need is to be delivered from certain situations)
- Believing that Christ is not willing or able to save: thinking that he does not love or care for us enough to rescue us, or that He is not powerful enough to save us

Luke 23:18-43

Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

18 But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”— **19** a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. **20** Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, **21** but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” **22** A third time he said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” **23** But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. **24** So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. **25** He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

The Crucifixion

26 And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. **27** And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. **28** But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. **29** For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ **30** Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ **31** For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

32 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. **33** And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. **34** And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. **35** And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” **36** The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine **37** and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” **38** There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” **40** But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? **41** And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” **42** And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” **43** And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.

Study Guide

1. Pick any one of the characters in the passage and do a deep dive:

- a) What do they say or do to Jesus? What does that reveal about their hearts?
- b) How does Jesus respond to them?
- c) Consider: Jesus died on the Cross for them. What does that reveal about Jesus' heart and the power of the Cross?

2. Most of us are not like the characters in the passion narrative (i.e. outrightly crying out for Jesus' crucifixion and mocking Him), but how do we in our own lives reject or trivialise Jesus in the way we live?

3. What hope does Jesus offer for those of us who have constantly turned away, mocked or rejected Him? How can we see it in the passion narrative?