

Three Crosses

Read: Luke 23:32-43

Main idea: The three crosses of Calvary are a microcosm of human history as they tell the story of the human race from sin to redemption or condemnation at the crossroads of faith.

Key Verses: “And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
(23:42-43 ESV)

Key Principles:

- The crucifixion of Jesus represents the culmination of the collective failure of the human race, caused by our sin.
- It also points to the purpose that God has been pursuing throughout human history by bringing a Savior to remove the curse of death.
- The two criminals represent the sinfulness of all humanity and the decision that each of us must make in response to the sacrificial death of Jesus.
- If you reject Jesus, then you will spend eternity separated from Him.
- If you repent of your sins and follow Jesus, then you will spend eternity with Him in the place that He has prepared for you.
- Christian conversion is not a change of circumstance or even (primarily) a change of behavior, but it is a change of position because you are now identified with Christ.

Discussion:

1. Read Psalm 2 together. What does this Psalm tell us about the events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus? Why is it important to believe that this was God’s plan?
2. Do you ever stop to contemplate the truth that Jesus died so that you could be forgiven? How should you respond to that reality?
3. Why do you think God chose to represent humanity with two criminals at the crucifixion? What does that say about each of us?
4. Why do people reject the gospel of Jesus Christ? Have you had anyone reject the gospel when you’ve shared it? Do you share the gospel?
5. Do you believe that it takes humility to respond to the gospel with repentance and faith? Why?
6. Is it easier to make excuses for the difficulty of your life or repent, believe and follow Jesus? Why? How should that affect our life and our witness?

Prayer:

- Pray that as we come to the crossroads of faith we will choose repentance.
- Pray:
 - That we earnestly and passionately share the gospel of Jesus with everyone.
 - That we would not be discouraged by rejection or persecution.
 - That we would remember to find our hope in the truth that God loves & saved us.

Three Crosses
Luke 23:32-43

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| I. | <u>Look to the cross of redemption.</u> | 23:32-34 |
| 1. | Jesus <u>died</u> in your <u>place</u> . | 23:32-33 |
| 2. | Jesus will <u>forgive</u> your <u>sins</u> . | 23:34 |
| II. | <u>Flee from the cross of rejection.</u> | 23:35-39 |
| 1. | <u>Watching</u> Him is rejection. | 23:35 |
| 2. | <u>Mocking</u> Him is rejection. | 23:35-38 |
| 3. | <u>Blaming</u> Him is rejection. | 23:39 |
| III. | <u>Run to the cross of repentance.</u> | 23:40-43 |
| 1. | You must <u>understand</u> your greatest <u>need</u> . | 23:40 |
| 2. | You must <u>admit</u> your <u>guilt</u> before God. | 23:41 |
| 3. | You must <u>cry</u> out for God's <u>grace</u> . | 23:42 |
| 4. | You will be <u>united</u> with <u>Jesus Christ</u> . | 23:43 |

NEXT WEEK:
Jesus is the Way
John 14:1-14