

Luke 23.26-43

A Savior for All People

Time for Savior to Die > BETRAYER given Him a FATAL KISS

PRIESTS held Midnight TRIAL / GOVERNOR rendered UNJUST Verdict

SOLDIERS beaten Innocent Prisoner > Jesus slow Steps to CROSS

We have seen the Cross is Coming since Beginning of Luke's Gospel...

2.35 Dedic Jesus, Simeon to Mary "sword will pierce thru your own soul"

9.22 "Son of Man must suffer many things...rejected...and be killed"

Luke said for 23 chapters that this Jesus is BORN to DIE...

Cross/Resurrection Central Event of all 4 Gospels > Unique Emphasis

Themes of Luke > Discipleship > Savior for World > Make Decision

2011 Jerusalem walked Via Dolorosa > Jesus carried Cross

100's Global Xtians > Several Carrying Crosses > Many Praying!

Vendors! post-cards, t-shirts, cold drinks, souvenirs // Jesus' DAY!

Luke's Focus always on Jesus > Barely can Walk > He is still Leading

1. Disciple who Carries the Cross

Pilate pressured to pronounce Sentence of Death by Crucifixion

John never mentions Simon of Cyrene > theme Jesus is VICTOR, King

John 19.18 "so they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross"

Gospels Complementary / Not Contradictory – John NOT say ONLY Jesu

John 4th Gospel Written > Mt,Mk,Lk out There >> Glorious, Risen KING

Jesus DID carry Cross until Too Slow for Romans > Get Job Done!!

Awake 2 Days > 39 lashes Whip Rips Skin > wears Crown of Thorns

Isaiah 52.14 "his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance"

Soldiers NOT want Jesus to DIE before had Joy of KILLING Him

Jerusalem filled w Passover Worshippers from Many Nations

v. 26 as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country & laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus

City CONTROLLED by Rome > Law of Conscription, Soliders Forced
 Cyrene / Africa – over 800 miles away – Surprised & Shamed into Task
 wrong place at wrong time > Another Detail God Ordained for Good

Random Act changed Simon's Entire Family Forever

Mark 15.21 they compelled a passerby Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, father of Alexander & Rufus, to carry his cross: ROME must have Boasted with Joy! @ Dad

Luke emph Discipleship > CROSS Bearing duty of Disciples

v. 26 “laid on SIMON the cross, to carry it BEHIND Jesus”

Simon Drafted into DISCIPLESHIP > Not 1st Follower of J NOT Plan 2

Luke > True History > Focus on Jesus' call to Discipleship

Luke 9.23 if anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, pick up his cross daily and follow me

14.27 anyone does not carry his cross & follow me cannot be my disciple

Christ's cross became Simon's cross. Simon follows behind Jesus.

Everyone who follows Christ must pick up their cross.

Disciple who Carries the Cross // 2. Daughters who Weep

Thru Gospel/Luke: Jesus dividing People > Dividing people even at End

Some People lead Us to Christ > Some lead AWAY from Christ

v. 27 And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him.

Daughters of Jerusalem, Not confuse w/ Galilee women who Support J.

Wailers: women that did this often > Support, Friendship, Make Money

1983 lived Kuluva Hosp / Arua, Uganda > Nathan BORN

75 beds > Someone DIED Families, Friends WAILED > Terrifying

v. 28 But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

Somber Story only told by Luke > Jesus the Man of Sorrows

Sympathetic Women, Saw Injustice, Torture/Death Innocent Man

Expect Jesus to Appreciate Kindness “Hey, thanks, Aunties...God Bless!”

Instead > Mild Rebuke & Solemn Warning > I do Not Need your PITY

Never told Need Extreme Emotional Response to Jesus' Sufferings

Some go to Good Friday services WEEP for 3 Hours

Some Churches > 7 Stations of Cross Stimulate Emotional Participation

Jesus NOT Need or ASK For our PITY > Not that Day or TODAY

11 yrs in KZ, 1 X Movie Theater > 2004: Passion of Christ, Mel Gibson

Shows AGONIZING Suffering of Jesus > Horror of Roman Cruelty

Readers of NT saw People Hanging on Crosses too Many Times

WEPT thru Most of Film – Not See Again – Still Playing in My Mind

Movie Theater Audience in Almaty, KZ > Not Moved, Talked on Phones

Grizzly, Bloody, Cruel Suffering NOT Create Faith > Only Holy Spirit

Terrible Reality of OUR Sins that Required Cross > Love of God in X

NT writers Not Focus on Blood & Gore v. 33 'there they crucified him'

"If we weep over the cross, it should be in sorrow for our sin and gratitude for our salvation, but never with sadness for Jesus"
Philip Ryken

Confusion: Statue of Jesus Hanging on Cross > He is Now Risen King!

Jesus warns Women in Jerusalem of Destruction Coming to Jerusalem

v. 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!'

Chapter 21 – Prophecy of Roman Forces led by Gen Titus in 70 AD

Not One Stone was Left Upon Another / 10's of 1000's KILLED

Jesus speaks > Don't weep for me, weep for yourselves, children

Time is coming, Blessing of bearing a Child > Become a Curse

Shocking Time in History: Barren women will be the Blessed women

EXTREME TERROR: v. 30 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.'

Being buried alive seems better than facing what is above ground

Jesus quoting Hosea 10.8 > Judgment of Samaria

Sin of Israel > say to the mountains cover us, fall upon us

70 AD Great judgment of God upon Israel

Revel: Earthquake, stars falling, sky unraveled, mtns & islands disappear

People > Call to mtns, fall on us, cover us from Wrath of the Lamb!

v. 31 if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Jesus: Proverb: If green wood ignites, what hope for dry wood?

Green wood burn? Really HOT! Intense Time, DANGER need X!

If INNOCENT Son of God treated like this, what hope for Guilty?

Jesus not quoting this proverb out of spite > out of love

Prophecy of Fall of Jerusalem 70 AD > Whole World one FINAL Day

Believe on him to find salvation in him before it's too late.

Historically those who trusted X got out of Jerusalem before 70 AD

Jesus is not looking their Sympathy, but for THEIR Conversion.

3. Day that Ends in Paradise

Thru Gospel, Luke tells the Story of Jesus in Two's

2 Women Expecting Baby – Mary & Elizabeth

2 Saints in Temple waiting for Messiah – Anna and Simeon

2 Men Going Up to Pray in Temple – Pharisee and Tax Collector

2 Sons Loved by their Father – Rebellious and Religious – BOTH LOST!

2 Men hanging Next to Jesus on Crosses – 2 Different Eternal Destinies

Division at beginning > division all the way thru his ministry

vs. 32,33 2 others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 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.

Jesus Crucified between 2 Criminals > Prophecy fulfilled: Isaiah 53.12 "he poured out his life unto death & was numbered with the transgressors"

2nd statement Jesus v. 34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

As He is NAILED to Cross > Preaching the Saving Power of Cross!

Prayer for MERCY for his MURDERERS

He said, "Father, forgive them not know what they were doing"

Imagine! He prays for his tormentors! Soldiers w Hammers in Hands

Point not that Soldiers were Innocent > Jesus prays for Forgiveness

Jesus all about Forgiveness > Who He is > Why he's on a Cross

Jesus desires to forgive you no matter what you've done.

Wants to Forgive you > Why he dies > Make sure can be Forgiven.

End of WW2 – Gen Douglas MacArthur back to Japan

Called for Christian Missionaries to Come

"Spiritual Vacuum" Belief: MacArthur believed if Japan not filled w Christian ideals,
it would be filled with communism.

Call for Missionaries: btwn 1,000 to 5,000 in the subsequent years

Bible: MacA encouraged/oversaw distribution over 10 million Bibles,

Voluntary Conversion: Despite his eagerness, MacArthur believed in a voluntary,
rather than a top-down forced, adoption of Christianity

1 Xtian Preachers to Japan Jacob DeShazer / Doolittle Crew/Raid

Shot Down over Japan, Imprisoned, Tortured 3 yrs, Not Xtian

Given Bible to Read – btwn 1st & 6th Reading of Entire Bible: Believed

"I was a Prisoner of Japan" – 1 million copies printed in Japanese

Discouraged Japanese Hero found 1 in Train Station – Mitsuo Fuchida

Given order "Tora, Tora, Tora" lead planes over Pearl Harbor

"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" > Tract

Fuchida got Own Bible > Read Story himself > Trusted Jesus

Came to Hawaii and Preached Gospel! several times

v. 35 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!" >

Kindness of God on the Cross just Fuels His Mockers

RULERS – Who Never Asked Question that Jesus could Not Answer

Rulers – Who Could Never Answer Jesus' Simple Questions to Them

Front Row Seat to His Teaching / Miracles > Got Him Nailed to Cross

As Hangs on Cross – No Remorse > Heap more Insults SCOFFERS

Damned by their Own Confession "He Saved Others" > He is the Christ

vs. 36-38 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If
you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the
King of the Jews."

Placard > King of the Jews! Really!? Look at what's happening to him.

Wine vinegar, very cheap wine // Mocking = dog food to a king

KING huh!? Soldiers got a LAUGH > King – Naked, Bleeding, Heaving

Was NOT Nails that Killed People on Cross > Asphyxiation – Strangled

GASPING for Breath – Pushing with Legs – Breaking Legs = DEATH

v. 39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” – MT BOTH men Reviled Jesu

Their logic > He claims be Messiah & Savior > He cannot save self!

People on the cross are cursed > Jesus is cursed & rejected by God

saviors save/ King's rule. You're doing neither. you can't be king or savior

vs. 40,41 But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”

Criminal's death: slow, shameful, scandalous, excruciating death

one Thief admits they were punished justly

Guilty people are dying > We're guilty > People should die.

Jesus is innocent, though he is with the guilty.

Twist in Story > Jesus looks like Not a king & cannot save

But he is Savior: as they're saying these very things, he is saving world

As they're mocking him, he's saving you and I

Because Jesus would not save himself > Qualifies him to be the savior

vs. 42 “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Other criminal is making demands.

If you really are the Savior, save us. Save yourself first and save us.

One is making demands > other guy not making any demands

Something about Jesus > Caused him to think & Wonder who Jesus was.

Something about how Jesus suffered & died > gripped him

he says to Jesus > Remember me when come into your kingdom?

Remember: 10 X's in OT > calling upon God to save them

Much More “Hey, let's meet up when we're both dead...coffee?”

1st Plea > Save me > Acknowledges his sin > Needed to BE Saved!
Tells man hanging on Other Cross, “Hey, WE deserve THIS!”

2nd He knows he's a sinner. He knows he needs to be saved.
Not just from the cross, from where he is going after death!
Not ready for what will happen to him Beyond death.
For this man, it's the bottom of the ninth with two outs.

3rd he confesses Jesus has a kingdom, must be a king and a savior

4th he Trusts Jesus to Save him > puts himself in Christ's hands.
puts very soul, eternity beyond his life on Earth in hands of Jesus Christ.
He realizes that Christ is his only his only hope.
His only shot is pure Grace, God must be merciful to him.
Not making Bargain – I will pay Half, Add My Good Works to Bad
“I’m in a Bad Place here, but I was not Always THIS Bad a Person!”
Jesus must remember him > Not offer his good works in the past
Resting purely upon Christ > no mixing his Works & Christ's work
He's asking for Jesus to remember him > Save Him!
Have you asked Jesus to save you?

v. 43 he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Responses of Jesus > He says nothing to the Mockers

But he responds to One who asks him to Remember him

1st This you can count on. This is the truth. Guarantee words are true.

2nd Promises Paradise > root of the word for the Garden

Garden of Eden > we can Go Back Home > 2nd Adam Obeys!

Now, able to re-enter God’s Garden > Eat from Tree of Life

Jesus says Today, you'll be with me at Paradise, not someday.

Not on Judgment Day, not after Purgatory. But immediately after dying Thief was with the Lord
> This is our hope as Christians Jesus: “You're gonna be there because I'm gonna be there”

Some presume on example of Thief on the Cross

One day – when I am ready – I can turn to Christ

This can happen, this happened to this man > thief on the cross

When he saw Opportunity to Believe in King Jesus > Did NOT Wait

Clock was Ticking > Soon to Die > Must Respond Urgently

Don't presume that you will have that moment. Now is the time. Today is the day of salvation.

This is the time to believe today.

Remember it's never too late to turn to Christ - Never, never, never

Not a sin that God will say that's too much. Can't forgive that.

We are saved by being with Christ, belonging to Christ, in Christ.

He is accused of not saving at very moment that he is saving!

Story shows us that the moment we believe we are his.

Becoming a Christian is not really a process, it is being born again.

It's a moment when we turn to Christ and say, remember me

I realized that I'm dying - hanging on a cross - there's no hope for me.

Jesus doesn't want the Judgment of God to come upon you.

Ask him to remember you even if you've done it a thousand times.

Ask him again Christian to remember you > Keep Carrying CROSS

Psalm 69 // Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.

I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold... // I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched... // **More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies...** // For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face.

I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons. // For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me...//

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness...

Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me... // **Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!...** //

They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink... //

For they persecute him whom you have struck down, and they recount the pain of those you have wounded. // Add to them punishment upon punishment;

may they have no acquittal from you. // **Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous.**

But I am afflicted and in pain; let your salvation, O God, set me on high!

I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Amen and Amen.