

Sermon Discussion Guide:

The Way to the Cross

Scripture: **Luke 23:26–32**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, August 2, 2020

OVERVIEW

We all respond differently to injustice. Perhaps you have had discussions with family, friends and neighbors and found others are missing the point you are trying to make. We might get angry or appeal to “experts”, fear, or other emotions to try to persuade. The greatest injustice of all time was the crucifixion of the only human who did not deserve the death penalty—Jesus Christ. When we reflect on this historical event, we can also miss the point. We are often distracted by evil perpetrated by Jesus’ adversaries or our own sympathy for Jesus’ suffering. However, **the crucifixion of Jesus doesn’t call for our sympathy, but for our faith.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Matthew 26:67–68, John 19:1–3, 2 Corinthians 11:24, Mark 15:21, Romans 16:13, Luke 19:41–44, Luke 13:3, 2 Thessalonians 1:5–12, Revelation 6:15–17, Luke 21:34–36

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why was Simon of Cyrene likely pressed into service to carry the cross behind Jesus? *[the Roman process of flogging and crucifixion intentionally brought the subject to just short of the point of death and were often unable to carry the cross on their own]*
2. Simon’s action, in a sense, illustrated Jesus’ command for his followers to bear their cross (Luke 14:27). Simon’s sons apparently became disciples of Jesus (Mark 15:21; Romans 16:13). What kind of cross does Jesus have for you to bear and what fruit may come of it?
3. Multitudes of women from Jerusalem wept for Jesus as he suffered, which seems on the surface like a commendable thing. Yet, Jesus corrects them with an ominous warning. Is Jesus just being contrarian because he’s in pain, or is there something critical that the multitudes are missing? *[the pity that the people are showing ignores the essential fact that they—just like us—are deserving of the very punishment, death, and separation from God that Jesus was experiencing because of the injustice that each person has committed against God]*
4. Do you most identify with an innocent bystander at the crucifixion of Jesus, one of the criminals with whom he was crucified, or one of His accusers and tormentors? Why?
5. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12 and discuss what makes you “worthy of the kingdom of God.”