

Jesus Magnified

Luke 23

Lesson 20

FIRST DAY: Read Luke 23

Every person who has ever lived will give an account before the living God. On that day the determining question will be, *What did you do with the testimony of My Son, Jesus Christ?* Those who repented of their sins and received Jesus will enter an eternity of glory. However, those who scorned and rejected Jesus will spend eternity in utter darkness and despair, completely separated from God.

In Luke 23 it would appear that Jesus was on trial before religious leaders, Pilate, Herod, Roman soldiers, the populace in Jerusalem, and thieves on crosses. The reality is that as Jesus was being tried before men, men were being tried and tested before God. Men's truest intentions, natures, and hostilities were revealed by their treatment of the Son of God.

On each side of Jesus was a cross where a condemned thief hung. Both thieves harassed Jesus until, suddenly, one thief felt his own depravity and observed the divinity of Jesus. This thief changed his demeanor toward Jesus and asked Jesus to *remember* him. Jesus received him and promised him *Paradise*. The other thief died in his condemnation.

Today, like those two thieves, every person is on one side of Jesus or the other. All men are condemned to death because of their sin and rejection of Jesus (John 3:17-19). However, anyone who repents and calls on the name of Jesus is promised an eternity in *Paradise* with the Lord. Oh, what glory awaits those who are on the right side of the cross!

Ask the Lord to deepen your appreciation for what Jesus accomplished for you on the cross.

SECOND DAY: Read Luke 23:1-12

1. Having unjustly declared Jesus guilty before the Jewish council, *the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate* (Luke 23:1). Read John 18:31 to identify their motive for taking Him to Pilate.

2. From Luke 23:2, 5 record and remark on the accusations against Jesus.

3. When Pilate asked Jesus if He was *King of the Jews*, what did He answer?
Luke 23:3
 - a. John's Gospel records more of the conversation between Jesus and Pilate. Read John 18:33-38 and share your observations.

4. Use Luke 23:4 to comment on Pilate's judicial verdict concerning Jesus.

5. When Pilate found out Jesus was *a Galilean*, he sent Jesus to Herod, *who was also in Jerusalem* (Luke 23:6-7). Why had Herod *desired* to see Jesus?
Luke 23:8
 - a. Link this with Mark 6:14 and Luke 9:9. Note your discoveries.

6. Consider Jesus' response to Herod's questioning in Luke 23:9. Why do you think Jesus responded to Herod this way?

7. Use Luke 23:10-11 to describe how Jesus was *treated* by:
 - a. The Jewish leaders (verse 10)

b. Herod and *his men of war* (verse 11)

8. From Luke 23:12 observe what was forged between Pilate and Herod *that very day*.

9. From your study today, note and comment on the attitude displayed toward Jesus by:

a. The Jewish leaders

b. Pilate

c. Herod

10. What impresses you most about Jesus during this ordeal?

THIRD DAY: Read Luke 23:13–25

1. Pilate *called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people* (Luke 23:13). From his words to them in Luke 23:14–16 note and remark on:

a. The Jews' accusation (verse 14a)

b. Pilate's verdict (verses 14b, 16)

c. Herod's verdict (verse 15)

2. It was customary for Pilate to *release* a prisoner during the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Luke 23:17). Who did the crowd ask Pilate to *release* to them? Luke 23:18

a. According to Luke 23:19, what had this man done?

(1) What does this request convey to you about the crowd?

3. Observe the mounting tension between Pilate and the crowd in Luke 23:20–23. What stands out to you about:

a. The crowd

b. Pilate

4. From Luke 23:23–24 comment on Pilate’s capitulation.

a. Link Pilate’s final *sentence* in Luke 23:24–25 with his actions in Matthew 27:24. Share your thoughts.

5. Contrast the man Pilate *released* in Luke 23:25 with Jesus. What irony do you see?

6. What is your takeaway from today’s study?

FOURTH DAY: Read Luke 23:26–38

1. Jesus had already endured intense emotional and physical suffering. He was beaten at the high priest's house, unjustly accused, shamed and humiliated, forced to stay up all night, and was severely scourged by the Romans. Therefore, as He was delivered into the hands of the Romans to be crucified, what became necessary *as they led Him away*? Luke 23:26
 - a. Warren Wiersbe wrote, *When you consider all that Jesus had endured since His arrest in the Garden, it is not difficult to imagine Him falling under the load. But there is something more involved: carrying the cross was a sign of guilt, and our Lord was not guilty!*⁵ Link this with 2 Corinthians 5:21 and share your heart.
 - b. Church historians believe Simon later became a Christian because his sons were known as leaders in the early church (Mark 15:21, Romans 16:13). How does this speak to you?
2. *A great multitude* followed Jesus, as did *women who also mourned and lamented Him* (Luke 23:27). Use Jesus' words to these *Daughters of Jerusalem* in Luke 23:28–31 to answer the following:
 - a. What did Jesus tell them to do? (verse 28)
 - (1) What do you find remarkable about this?
 - b. What did Jesus say about the *days* that were *coming*? (verses 29–30)

(1) Jesus was warning again of the fall of Jerusalem (Luke 19:42–44).
Why is this noteworthy?

c. According to David Guzik, in verse 31 Jesus was saying, *If this is the fate of the innocent (Jesus referring to Himself), what will happen to the guilty?* What do you find sobering about this?

3. From Luke 23:32–33 describe what happened at *the place called Calvary*.

a. Commentators say, *Although the Romans did not invent crucifixion, they perfected it as a form of torture and capital punishment that was designed to produce a slow death with maximum pain and suffering.* How does this magnify Jesus' sacrifice?

4. Record Jesus' prayer in Luke 23:34a.

a. What do Jesus' words mean to you?

5. Use Luke 23:34b–37 to comment on those present at the cross:

a. Their actions (verses 34b–35a)

b. Their mockery (verses 35b–37)

c. Their *offering* (verse 36b)

(1) What stands out to you most from this scene?

(2) Although horrific, what happened to Jesus was a direct fulfillment of prophecy. How does this speak to you? See also Acts 2:23.

6. Print the inscription hung on the cross. Luke 23:38

a. Note the languages this inscription was written in. Link this with John 3:16 and share your thoughts.

FIFTH DAY: Read Luke 23:39–49

1. In Luke 23:39 *one of the criminals* being crucified with Jesus *blasphemed Him*. What did he say to Jesus?

2. The *other* criminal gave a profound response to this. Use Luke 23:40–42 to record and remark on this criminal's:

a. Rebuke (verse 40)

b. Recognition (verse 41)

c. Request (verse 42)

(1) What stands out to you most about this criminal?

3. From Luke 23:43 print Jesus' response to the criminal's request.

a. What does this convey to you about salvation?

b. What assurance do you receive from Jesus' declaration?

4. According to Luke 23:44-45, during the hours of noon to 3 p.m. two remarkable things took place. Comment on the significance of these events:

a. *The sun was darkened* (see John 8:12)

b. *The veil of the temple was torn in two** (see Hebrews 10:19-22)

*The veil in the temple was a thick curtain that separated the priests from the room where the Ark of God had been kept – The Holy of Holies.

5. Out of this darkness, Jesus' voice was heard. Record His final words before *He breathed His last*. Luke 23:46

a. Link this with John 10:18. What do you discover?

b. According to John 19:30, in this moment Jesus also cried out, *Tetelestai*, which means, *It is finished* or *Paid in full*, because He had borne God's wrath and paid for our sin. What does this declaration mean to you? See also Isaiah 53:4-5.

6. From Luke 23:47-49 note the response to Jesus' death by:

a. *The centurion* (verse 47)

(1) Why was his response outstanding?

b. *The whole crowd* (verse 48)

c. *Jesus' acquaintances and the women* (verse 49)

7. As you studied these events, what is your response?

4. From your study this week, write your impression of the following people and how they were affected by Jesus:
 - a. The Jewish leaders
 - b. Pilate
 - c. Herod
 - d. Barabbas
 - e. Simon the Cyrenian
 - f. The women
 - g. The criminals
 - h. The centurion
 - i. Joseph of Arimathea
5. How was Jesus magnified through your study this week?