

“FATHER, FORGIVE THEM”

Luke 23:26–49

Key Verse: 23:34a

1. What happens to Simon of Cyrene (26), and how does this help us understand what is going on? Who else does Luke describe (27), and what does this show us? What does Jesus predict to these women (28–31), and why (19:41–44; cf. Hos.10:8b)?
2. Who is with him, where are they crucified, and why like this (32–33; cf. Isa.53:12)? Read verse 34a. What do we learn in this about Jesus (6:27–28; cf. Isa.53:5–6)? How does his prayer still speak to us today (Eph.1:7; 4:32)? What do the soldiers do, and what does it show about them (34b; cf. Ps.22:18)?
3. Who else is described (35), and why do they do this? How do the soldiers join in, and why (36–37; cf. Ps.22:7–8)? What is the purpose of the inscription over him (38)? Note the repeated taunts to save himself (35,37,39); why does he not do so (19:10; 9:24)?
4. Compare and contrast the two criminals also hanging there (39–41); what do we learn from this? What does the second man say (42), and how could he ask this? What does Jesus promise him (43), and why (Eph.2:8)?
5. What other responses to the crucifixion are recorded (44–45), and what do they mean? How does Jesus die (46; cf. Ps.31:5)? Why is a centurion there, how does he respond (47), and why? How does this event end (48–49)?
6. Review in this passage all the responses to crucified Jesus. What is the right response to his crucifixion? What effect can his crucifixion have on us?