

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

Day 1- Read Luke 23

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: *Luke23:34 "And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."*

Day 2- Luke 23:1-16

1. When the Sanhedrin brought Jesus before Pilate, the Roman governor of Judah, what three things did they accuse Jesus of?

2. Though there was much at stake for Pilate as a Roman governor, what was his finding in verse 4?

3. Not being interested in justice, how did the Sanhedrin respond in verse 5, to Pilate's finding?

Scholar's Note: "The account of the Lord's hearing before Herod appears only in Luke's gospel. Herod Antipas was one of the sons of Herod the Great, who died after a long rule in 4 B.C. When he died, his kingdom was divided among his sons. Herod Antipas was given Galilee and Peraea, over which he ruled from 4 B.C. to A.D. 39. With the exception of the accounts of Christ's birth, Antipas is the Herod who appears in the Gospels' record of Jesus' life and ministry."¹

4. Why was Herod interested in Jesus according to verse 8?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse:

Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth."

-Verse 9 tells us that Jesus remained silent. Apart from fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah why do you think Jesus did not defend himself when questioned?

Picture and Ponder: "Jesus held back any words that would have relieved him from the shame and blame of sin. He was not a sinner, but he took fully the sinner's place."²

5. Instead of making any legal accusations what did Herod do in verse 11?

Day 3- Luke 23:18-25

6. Some translations include verse 17, which explains the custom of releasing one prisoner at the time of the feast. Describe who the people wanted released according to verses 18-19?

7. How is the release of Barabbas a wonderful picture of what Jesus came to do?

8. Why did Pilate eventually give in despite his conviction that Jesus was innocent according to verse 23?

For Discussion: Why do you think the people preferred to have a murderer released to live among them rather than have Jesus released?



Three times Pilate declared Jesus innocent. Herod found no grounds to accuse him on. The Sanhedrin had to bring in false witnesses (Mark 14:56) to testify against him. Yet Jesus, the perfect Son of God was found guilty. The conviction of Jesus was the worst injustice ever perpetrated.

- ❖ How does it impact you that Jesus endured such severe injustice?

- ❖ What emotions does injustice bring up in you?

- ❖ Peter tells us in 1 Peter 2:23 that as Jesus was suffering he “continued entrusting himself to the one who judges justly”. How can this help you if you ever face injustice?

Day 4- Luke 23:26-43

9. It may well be that Simon of Cyrene, who was pressed into service carrying the cross for Jesus, became a follower of Jesus. “The way that Luke refers to him seems to indicate that he was a man who was known to his readers (his sons certainly were known in the early church— see Mark 15: 21).”³ What do you think Simon would have been feeling when the soldiers made him carry the cross?

10. Jesus has been beaten to the point of near death, but what is on his mind in vs.28-30 as the women mourners are following him? (See 21:20-24 for help)

Scholar's Note: "It is worth highlighting the very positive role that women play in Luke's narrative. Women occupied an honored place in the gospel narratives and in the early church, and while the Bible teaches that each gender has distinct roles to play in the home and in the church (e.g. Ephesians 5: 22-28), it never portrays women as second-class citizens or anything less than essential parts of the body of Christ. Here, when the crowds have turned on Jesus and the great disciple Peter has denied him, it is a group of women who possess the love and courage to stay with him until the very end."⁴

11. In verse 34, how did Jesus continue to show his infinite love for sinners even as they were killing him?



Jesus taught his followers to love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them. He lived out, in real life, the way of God that is so completely alien to our natural selves. If ever we think that is too much to ask, or impossible to carry out, we can look to the cross where Jesus is not only our perfect example, but he is also our ultimate substitute.

He took "love your enemies" to the utmost by willingly dying for the ones who murdered him and mercifully praying for them while he died. When we fail to love and pray for our enemies, we remember Jesus did it perfectly on our behalf. Because of his life, death and resurrection, we as believers are not condemned, but motivated and enabled by trusting and believing to press on to live the life he called us to.

- ❖ Since it was our sin that Jesus died for, we too are responsible for his death. What impact does it make on your heart that Jesus looked on you in mercy while dying for your sins?
- ❖ Why is worship, not self-recrimination, the proper response to realizing that it was your sins that nailed Jesus to the cross?
- ❖ Galatians 2:20 says, "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." How do the truths in this verse help you to love and pray for your enemies, or forgive others, or follow Jesus in any other way that we find so hard to carry out?

12. How does what the religious leaders mock Jesus about show what is at the heart of their disbelief? How does what the Roman soldiers mock Jesus about show what is at the heart of their disbelief?

For Discussion: In verse 35 the religious rulers scoffed at Jesus admitting that he saved others, so why can't he save himself. What would have been the outcome if he had saved himself?

13. What are the evidences you see of the thief's true conversion in verses 39-43?

14. What does it teach you about salvation, that the thief was saved as he was dying?

15. How does each part of Jesus' promise to the thief bring you joy and comfort?

Today-
you-
will be with me-
in paradise-

Day 5- Luke 23:44-56

16. What happened from noon until three o' clock according to verses 44-45?



Jesus had said the night before he died that this is the hour when darkness reigns. The Bible uses darkness to symbolize evil and judgment. Paul says that Jesus became sin (2 Cor. 5:21) and Peter says that he took our sins upon himself (1 Peter 2:24). How could the light of the sun not fail, when the Light of the World was covered by our sin?

Jesus' death was more terrible than any other death ever experienced because he knew no sin; he was light— pure, innocent and perfect— unlike any person who ever lived and he took on himself the evil and foul, darkness of sin. Because he became sin he was separated from God and the wrath of God for all our sin was poured out on him. There could be nothing more excruciating than bearing the wrath of God for the sins of the world.

- ❖ What does it mean to you that every sin you ever committed or ever will commit has been paid for by Jesus?

- ❖ Spend time in prayer thanking and praising Jesus for dying the death you deserved.

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

Exodus 26:33 "Hang the inner curtain from clasps, and put the Ark of the Covenant in the room behind it. This curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place."(NLT)

Hebrews 10:19-22 "And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water."(NLT)

-The Most Holy Place was where the presence of God dwelt in the temple. The curtain served as a barrier between God and man. Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place once a year on the Day of Atonement. He would sprinkle blood on the Ark of the Covenant atoning for the sins of the people. How did the tearing of this curtain at the moment of Jesus' death symbolize what Jesus death accomplished for us?

17. How did Jesus show complete trust in God with his last breath in verse 46?

18. Matthew's gospel (27:54) records the centurion saying, "truly this man was the Son of God". Throughout Luke's gospel he has emphasized Jesus' innocence. Some translations of verse 47 say *righteousness*. What do you think lead the centurion to this conclusion and what did it evoke in him?

19. According to verses 50-51, what are all the ways Joseph differed from the other religious rulers?

- What is the only way someone is counted as righteous? (See Romans 4:3 for help)

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

Isaiah 53:9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth.” (NASB)

Matthew 27:57 “As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who had become a follower of Jesus...”

Matthew 12:40 “For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.”

-How does it impact you to know that God’s providence was at work in every detail of Jesus’ death including the tomb he would be buried in and its owner?

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 28907-28909). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

² Rogers, Adrian as quoted in Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross edited by Nancy Guthrie. Excerpted from *The Passion of Christ and the purpose of Life* copyright 2005.

³ McKinley, Mike (2017-05-01). Luke 12-24 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God’s Word For You Book 14) (pp. 168-169). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

⁴ Ibid.

Copyright © 2017 Holli Worthington. This document may be reproduced for learning purposes but not for profit.