

Truth on Trial

Luke 23:1-25

- We _____ the _____.

- We make _____ with _____.

- Jesus offers _____ as our _____.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Before we discuss our text, take some time to discuss the events of this past week:

1. **Luke 23:1-25** picks up in the middle of a dark, hard time in the life of Jesus and the disciples. Take a few minutes and discuss the emotions you think people were experiencing during these events. How are some of these emotions similar to emotions that you have experienced over the course of the last few days?
2. Our emotions are great windows into our souls. They show us where our confidence lies and reveal how vulnerable we actually are. Take some time as a group and discuss what your emotional reactions this week have been and what you think they reveal about you.

Looking deeper at Luke 25:1-25

3. Looking in our text we quickly see that we share some ugly and sinful similarities with the people who condemn Jesus. Read **Luke 23:1-5**, paying special attention to how the religious leaders change the charges against Jesus, from blasphemy (Luke 22:66-71) to insurrection, in order to serve their agenda. In the same way, we can suppress truth, manipulating people and events, to get our way. In what ways do you see yourself manipulating the truth or others for your benefit?
4. Read on in **Luke 23:6-12**. In this passage we see Herod and Pilate move from enemies to friends as Jesus gets passed between the two. Likewise, sin leads us down a compromising path where we often also make friends with sin and the things of this world. What are the areas of your life where you are most often tempted to compromise and to make friends with sin?
5. Finish by reading **Luke 23:13-25**. Here we are introduced to Barabbas, an insurrectionist and murderer who is unexpectedly pardoned when Jesus is condemned to death. In the religious leaders, Herod, and Pilate, we see our sin, but we also need to see ourselves in the unexpected pardon of Barabbas. Take some time as a group and discuss how, like Barabbas, our pardon is made possible by the condemnation of Jesus.