

Date: September 5, 2021

Preached By: Chase Snyder

Sermon Series: Pivotal Moments

Sermon Title: The Criminals on the Cross

Passage: Luke 23: 32-43

Relevant Question: Are you a follower of Jesus or are you simply familiar with Jesus?

Main Point: If Jesus isn't leading your life then Jesus isn't the Lord of your life.

There is no greater pivotal moment in history than the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. There is no greater pivotal moment in your life than how you will respond to The Gospel. Will you give him your life or will you continue to rule your own life?

Main Point: There is a huge difference in being familiar with Jesus and being a follower of Jesus.

Relevant Question: Are you a follower of Jesus or are you simply familiar with Jesus?

Luke 23:32–34 (CSB)

³²Two others—criminals—were also led away to be executed with him.

³³When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals, one on the right and one on the left.

Luke 23:34–38 (CSB)

³⁴Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided his clothes and cast lots.

³⁵The people stood watching, and even the leaders were scoffing: “He saved others; let him save himself if this is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One!”

³⁶The soldiers also mocked him. They came offering him sour wine

³⁷and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!”

³⁸An inscription was above him: This Is the King of the Jews.

Matthew 27:41–44 (CSB)

⁴¹In the same way the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him and said,

⁴²“He saved others, but he cannot save himself! He is the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.

⁴³He trusts in God; let God rescue him now—if he takes pleasure in him! For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”

⁴⁴In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him taunted him.

Luke 23:39 (CSB)

³⁹Then one of the criminals hanging there began to yell insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

Luke 23:40–41 (CSB)

⁴⁰But the other answered, rebuking him: “Don’t you even fear God, since you are undergoing the same punishment?

⁴¹We are punished justly, because we’re getting back what we deserve for the things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong.”

Luke 23:42 (CSB)

⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Luke 23:43 (CSB)

⁴³And he said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

You won’t have a need for Jesus until you realize your spiritual need for Jesus.

Main Point: If Jesus isn’t leading your life then Jesus isn’t the Lord of your life.

Matthew 7:13–23 (CSB)

¹³“Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it.

¹⁴How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.

¹⁵“Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves.

¹⁶You’ll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

¹⁷In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit.

¹⁸A good tree can’t produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit.

¹⁹Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

²⁰So you’ll recognize them by their fruit.

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

²²On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?’

²³Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!’