



Sermon Discussion Guide

09.03.23 Message | Tim O'Connor | Luke 9:23-25; 23:32-44

Key Scripture:

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?"

- Luke 9:23-25

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour,".

- Luke 23:32-44

Message Highlights:

- Calvary represents the remedy for our sins and our central problem.
- Simply stated, the Gospel is our way out of this mess.
- Our response to sin is a daily trip up to Calvary with our cross.
- Whatever our felt needs are, they all fall away when we stand face-to-face with Jesus.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Share a time when you stumbled upon a unique remedy that surprised you with its effectiveness, regardless of whether it was a traditional approach or something more innovative.

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- How has the Spirit spoken to you through these passages of God's Word?



THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

Luke 9:23-25

- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow me”?
- How do you suppose the disciples received this message? What would be Jesus’ expectation after saying such a statement?
- What does it mean when Jesus says, “Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it”?
- What does it mean to “save” and “lose” your life in the context of this passage?
- Why would Jesus’ disciples continue to follow him after hearing such a statement?
- How does verse 25 play into your response?

Luke 23:32-44

- Describe the scene at Golgotha as portrayed in this passage. What emotions and actions are evident in the various individuals present?
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- Who are the two criminals crucified alongside Jesus? What are their interactions with Jesus, and how do they differ?
- How does this dialogue highlight contrasting attitudes and outcomes?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- How do the crucifixion scene and the conversations between Jesus and the criminals impact your understanding of Jesus’ sacrifice and your relationship with him?
- What can we learn about salvation and grace from the interaction between Jesus and the repentant criminal?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group recognize the communal implications for us as a Gospel-centered community?)

- How can we apply Jesus’ example of compassion and forgiveness in our own lives, especially toward those who may not understand or appreciate our faith?
- In verse 34, Jesus prays, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” What does this prayer demonstrate about Jesus’ character and mission?



THINK EXPAND (Does your group recognize the missional implications for those we want to reach for Christ?)

- How does the passage from Luke 9 impact how we should approach reaching the lost? What are some ways we can approach people practically in order to make an impact spiritually?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- One of the criminals asks Jesus to remember him when he comes into his Kingdom. How does Jesus respond, and what does this reveal about the nature of the Kingdom of God?
- How does this impact what we do in the here and now?
- How does this impact your worldview? How do you understand your purpose?