

## **Luke's Gospel: The Greatest Love**

Pastor Chad Ellenburg

Text: Luke 23:44-56

44 It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

### **And darkness covered the face of the deep.**

47 Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" 48 And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. 49 And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

### **I once was blind.**

50 Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, 51 who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. 52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 53 Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. 54 It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

### **Pieces of Life laid on the table.**

## **Food for Thought for the week of December 12, 2021**

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

As you think about these questions, remember that God's Word is living and active, able to time-travel, and has been written for you.

1. Where are you in the passage? Picture yourself standing in the crowd, listening to Jesus. What are you feeling? Conviction? Compassion? Is He looking at you?
2. Now imagine that Jesus has finished speaking and you approach Him. He smiles and welcomes you over. What do you want to ask Him?
3. As you listen to His Spirit and continue to reflect on the story, how does He answer you? What else is He saying to you?
4. Part of responding to God's Word is realizing that His grace is the fuel that will enable you. Do you sense His grace at work in your heart? What is He asking you to do next?