

Small Group Leader & Personal Bible Study

Memory Verse: Luke 23:43

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Daily Bible Meditation: Words from The Cross

1. Day 1 – John 19:1-27
2. Day 2 – Luke 23:26-43
3. Day 3 – Mark 15:21-39
4. Day 4 – Luke 23:44-49
5. Day 5 – John 19:28-37

Lesson: Words from The Cross

1. When you reflect on the cross, what is the most difficult part for you to imagine?

For me I am moved and drawn to the fact that while he was in an enormous amount of pain, Christ continued to minister to others needs regardless of how great or small they may have seemed. He truly reflected a selflessness ministry. While he suffered pain he prayed for them that God would forgive. While he suffered pain, he cared about how his mother would be cared for. While he suffered pain, he cared about the eternal well being of a criminal.

Even more so, the most difficult thing for me to imagine is what Christ suffered as the punishment for my sins. How he was forsaken by God because of me. What that must have been like I can not imagine. Thank you Jesus for doing that for me!

2. Reflect on the words of Jesus Christ from the cross. How do they minister to you today?

- "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)
- "Dear woman, here is your son" and to the disciple, "here is your mother." (John 19:26)
- "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)
- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34)
- "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46)
- "It is finished" (John 19:30)

3. Which phrase is most significant to you? Why?

His last statement, "it is finished" brings such a profound truth of the gospel. That on the cross, God's wrath was atoned for by Christ's sacrifice. That there is now no more condemnation for those of us who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1) It is done! It is paid for! Discussion over! Subject concluded! By grace alone have I been saved and I can't do a thing about it (Ephesians 2:8) expect live in it with joy unspeakable. Praise God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ for the work of the cross.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

55"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57**But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. In prayer, give thanks to God for sending His Son to the cross, and to Jesus Christ for His willing suffering and victory over sin and death.

Discovery Bible Study Exercise: In your journal or on a piece of paper make three columns and follow these steps:

- Step #1: Write out Luke 23:43
- Step #2: Re-write Luke 23:43 in your own words
- Step #3: Write out what you discover about Jesus in this passage?