



He Came To Seek And Save The Lost

CALNE FREE CHURCH

Charlie Fadipe | Luke 19 v 10 | During the Covid19 lockdown

Welcome

Dear Friends

We find ourselves in the Easter week already! This strange situation of lock down has meant that our natural rhythms of time and seasons seem out of whack! In this strange situation we find ourselves in, let us not lose the wonder of what the Lord Jesus does for us.

In just 5 days, we can't cover all the wonder of what the Lord of the Universe, the Son of Man, does on His journey to the Cross in that last week. But we can stop, each day this week and think about something that our Lord does that shows His nature and His wonderful Salvation.

In this devotional, there will be a passage to read, a simple message for you to explain to children in your house and a section where you can go deeper, if you wish to further study this subject. The idea is that the study is supposed to take about 10 mins and can be done with all your household. Continue to ask yourself the question, at the end of each study: "What does this show me about God?"

I have relied heavily on two devotional books: 'To Seek and To Save' by Sinclair Ferguson and 'The Wonder of Easter' by Ed Drew. Feel free to get these books from the <https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/> (or <https://www.100ftthose.com/uk/>) for longer, deeper devotional readings for this or next Easter.

I pray this will be a blessing to you and all in your house during this time.

Prayer:

You may like to use this prayer (or your variation of it) at the start of this study:

Heavenly Father,

Thank you that the Lord Jesus, the King of the universe, the Son of Man, suffered and died for me and rose from the dead, showing who He really is. Let the wonder of His love and Your complete Salvation overwhelm me, so that I run to You, rather than run away from You to sin. Please use me in Your Mission to honour Jesus as You bring repentance and forgiveness of sin to a lost world. Amen.

Reading 1

Luke 22:66 – 23:5, 13-25 □

Kids questions/activities: Join together and sing the hymn “My Song Is Love Unknown” by Samuel Crossman. The words are on the back sheet and you can sing along to this YouTube video: [My Song Is Love Unknown](#). This song captures in poetry the wonder and love of what we remember this week. Ask someone older if you don’t understand what any words or phrases actually mean.

Jesus said that He was the Son of God, the promised King who will rule from God’s throne. But do the religious leaders or the political leader, Pilate, agree with Jesus? What was wrong with the way Jesus was treated?

What does Jesus say about Himself in response to the religious leaders questioning? Was He wrong?

Why do you think these leaders felt that Jesus should be punished?

Picture the Scene: ‘It’s that mob of troublesome Sanhedrin! And they’re accusing this man of treason’, thinks Pilate.

How many times does Pilate dodge doing the right thing because of the crowds? What does He do in the end?

Think this through: *Woven into this travesty of justice is the evidence of a higher justice. For here God shows Himself to be Just and the Justifier of those who believe in Jesus (Romans 3:26). For how can we who are guilty, be declared righteous in His sight? Only if Jesus in His incarnation, becomes one with us and then becomes a substitute for us as sinners in His crucifixion. He (the King of the Universe!) has come to take our place and be counted as guilty in our place. The innocent One is treated as the guilty One in order that the guilty ones may be treated as righteous ones (2 Cor 5:21). This is the heart of the Gospel.*

Prayer ideas: Barabbas could say “Jesus died instead of me”. But the Christian can say, in a much deeper sense, “The Son of God, the I AM ... loved me and gave Himself for me”. Praise Him and love Him.

Going Deeper: Read Colossians 1:15 – 23 to get a clearer view of the Lord Jesus’ nature. And yet He would obey His Father, come to us, humble Himself and die for us on the Cross. Is there anything we shouldn’t do for Him? Ask that we might be moved by His love all the more and that our hearts may be changed to accept Him as our King in our hearts.

Reading 2

Luke 23:27 - 31 □

Kids questions/activities: It can be very sad when someone you love dies. We miss them terribly. We're sorry they aren't with us anymore. When the women saw how Jesus was treated they were so upset. But Jesus tells them not to be upset for Him. Why?

How are you supposed to feel when we think about the death of the Lord Jesus?

The Lord Jesus didn't need the tears from the women of Jerusalem. His crisis would soon be over. His crisis, though extreme, had a glorious purpose. But their crisis coming, the one which would come to them and their children, would be so horrific that being barren would have been considered a blessing. What does Jesus say they should do in v28?

As Jesus prophesied (Luke 21:20-24), in AD 70 the city of Jerusalem was besieged with many killed and the temple destroyed by the Roman army. But as terrible and horrific as that was, do you think Jesus was also warning them of the far greater horror of the final day of Judgment of God (read Revelation 6:12-17)?

So what does this show you about God?

Think this through: *The women of Jerusalem needed to know that if all they saw was Jesus needing sympathy, they had gravely misunderstood what was going on. Jesus was carrying the judgement of God against the sin of the world. Unless they found a hiding place in Him, no amount of sympathy would save them, or us, from The Event of the future.*

Prayer ideas: Ask God to help you not have a sentimental view of the cross. Instead, ask for you to see the seriousness of sin and run (rejoicingly) to Jesus' rescue. And to pray, earnestly, for those who are trusting in anything other than Jesus' rescue.

Going Deeper? Pray for those you know who don't trust Jesus. Thank God for His love that sent Jesus to seek and save sinners, the worst of sinners and give them Eternal Life (1 Tim 1:15)

Reading 3

Luke 23:32 - 34 □

Kids questions/activities: Get a piece of paper and with a pen/pencil draw 3 crosses, ready to put people on them. Try and draw what happens in this passage, finishing with tree figures on the three crosses. This was the most important day in the history of the world. Yet most people in the world, especially those around the cross, weren't interested in what God was doing. Instead they hated Jesus; some think Jesus was just another criminal being punished. What did the soldiers do with Jesus' clothes? What did Jesus pray as He was being put on the cross?

Outline the different things that happened to Jesus in this passage?

How did Jesus behave during these terrible moments?

So what does this show you about God?

Think this through: Jesus prays for those who hate Him! He longed for people such as these to join Him in Heaven as His brothers and sisters. What love! What incomparable mercy and grace. Read Romans 8:31-35 Don't ever doubt that you are in Christ's thoughts. He is praying for you. Don't be downcast by your sin. Don't think your sin should throw you out of the kingdom – because the Lord Jesus has done everything needed to hold you tight in His Kingdom. Read Romans 8:38. The Lord Himself is praying for you. Nothing can separate you from His eternal love.

Prayer ideas: Thank God for the amazing and incomparable love and care that the Lord Jesus shows.

Reading 4

Luke 23:35 - 43 □

Kids activities: Get the paper you used yesterday. Get 3 post-it notes for the 3 crosses. Use two of the post-it notes to label the two criminals, on the left and right of the central cross as 'sinner'. As criminals facing this kind of punishment, they must have been two of the worst people ever. On their post-it notes scribble a whole load of mess. What do you think they had done to make such a mess of their lives? Use the third post-it note to label Jesus, in the centre, as 'perfect'. No mess here, draw a big crown. When you get to the point when Jesus promises heaven to the 2nd criminal, you can swap his post-it note with Jesus' note. That's what the Gospel is. That's what Jesus does for us when we humbly ask him as we repent. That's why He came.

Think through: Notice how Luke slows down his whole narrative to show you the important, wonderful things that Jesus does, that sort of sum up His Mission. Luke spent 2 chapters on the first 12 years of Jesus' life, 16 chapters on the final 3 years and then 6 chapters on Jesus' final week! Now he devotes these last 2 chapters to the closing 24hrs of Jesus' life. We're supposed to see that all the hours that Jesus has lived were building up to this. Now Luke slows down still further, devoting 5 verses to a conversation that lasted only a minute or two. But in one sense, what Jesus accomplishes in these few minutes shows you what all His previous minutes were for.

One man next to Jesus had anger in his heart. Whatever anger had led to the crime for which he was being punished, he was still angry about it and he directs his violent emotions towards Jesus. What does he demand of Jesus? (What title is attributed to Jesus in almost every verse up to and including this one? If that title rightly belongs to Jesus, should this criminal really be demanding anything from Jesus?)

But from the other side, came a voice, probably struggling for breath to speak, that addresses Jesus. Study v41-42:

What does he confess? What does he recognize about Jesus being there with them? What does he ask Jesus? What is he acknowledging about who Jesus is?

What response does Jesus give him?

Prayer ideas: Turn the answers you gave to the questions of the 2nd criminal, into a prayer to Jesus. Praise Him with all your heart that He gives you the same response He gave that criminal.

Reading 5

Luke 23:44 - 49 □

Kids questions/activities: Think through what you heard this morning. Ask any questions about Good Friday and what it means to the adult in your house.

What were the two things that God did to show that Jesus' death on the cross changes everything?

What do you think is the significance of the Sun going dark at noon at Jesus' crucifixion?

Think this through: *At noon (and till 3 pm), the heavens became opaque and impenetrable. Creation itself seemed to be thrown in reverse gear as if God said 'Let there NOT be light' (in contrast to Gen 1:3). His face no longer shone on the Earth; the Aaronic blessing ("The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you ...the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace") had ceased to function. Jesus experienced the very opposite of what David knew in Psalm 23, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.. you are with me". Nature itself put on the dark clothes of mourning as Christ the Creator as put to death by sinful men, and on the cross came under the judgement of God (Gal 3:13).*

Which of the two is the most surprising/amazing to you? Why?

Think this through: *Rendering a garment was a sign of grief, of death and of mourning. Was God rending His "temple garments" at the death of His beloved Son? Perhaps. But more than that, God was de-consecrating the Jerusalem Temple. The temple curtain was no longer the barrier between God and man. Not only the temple veil but the flesh of Christ had been torn to create the new and living way into His presence (Hebrews 10:20).*

Even as Jesus dies and people go home dejected, Luke records one man who sees the something of who Jesus enough to praise God. See the Spirit at work in a very unlikely person to bring him to praise God.

Prayer ideas: There are many reasons to love the Lord Jesus. Today express your love for Him because for your sake He lived His entire life, moment by moment, in loving obedience to His heavenly Father – not least when it was most difficult – to save you.

Going Deeper? Read Hebrews 10:19-23. What are we supposed to do, understanding what the Lord Jesus does for us?

My song is Love Unknown

My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I,
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh, and die?

Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.

He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But oh, my Friend,
My Friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend