



The Gospel According to Luke  
Wk. 113 "Crucifixion"  
By Pastor Jody May

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**Luke 23:26-43 ESV**

**The Crucifixion**

<sup>26</sup> And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> And there followed him a **great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him.** <sup>28</sup> But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' <sup>30</sup> Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' <sup>31</sup> For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

<sup>32</sup> Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup> 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!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

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**Opening Illustration:**

What George Marshall says about leadership:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.marshallfoundation.org/marshall/george-marshall-said-leadership/>



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“When evening comes and all are exhausted, hungry and possibly dispirited, particularly in unfavorable weather at the end of a march or in battle, you must put aside any thought of personal fatigue and display marked energy in looking after the comfort of your organization, inspecting your lines and preparing for tomorrow.”

George Marshall is not as famous as Patton or Eisenhower but was the Chief of Staff of the Army during WWII, was credited with organizing the victory of that war, and responsible for the plan to help rebuild Europe. It is from men like Marshall that all great leaders learn that the way to establish hope, the way to ensure success, the way to victory is to take care of your forces **FRIST** before taking care of yourself.

You can see this trait in men that **understand** that **victory comes only with great sacrifice**. Our Lord was no stranger to this fact, I guess one could say He wrote the book on it. What I want to show you today is not a nice picture when it comes to the cruelty of man, but it is a beautiful picture of what a Mighty God we serve who first served us. It will definitely show you the **unsurmountable gap** between **man’s fallenness and cruelty** and **God’s Holiness and Concern**.

In the goal of dying as a substitute for sinners Jesus must first travel the "**Via Dolorosa**" The "**Way/Path of Sorrows**". This is literally the path that Christ walked with the cross that was used to crucify Him. I want us to see today the strength of our King, of our leader, by showing you what He was enduring in order to ensure victory. While literally on the road to His death, Jesus has accepted the will of the Father, and in doing so He now turns His concern towards those He’s trying to save. Family, I do not know if I have **EVER** seen a will as strong as this, it is awesome to behold. Your Warrior King did not rest, did not slack, did not quit until everything that He was supposed to do was done. As Marshall said, “*you must put aside any thought of personal fatigue and display marked energy*”, and Jesus did that in SPADES...

**The Path to Salvation is paved with what Concerns Christ, and because He is concerned for us, we can Rest...**



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There are three areas of **CONCERN** that Jesus had, that I want to show you today on this Path of Sorrows where He fought against men's cruelty and personal fatigue.

**1. Concerns for Jerusalem (The People, the Women and the Children v. 26-31).**

**<sup>26</sup> And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.**

First, we are introduced to a man named Simon of Cyrene which you should know that all the synoptic gospels have a recording of this man ([Mat. 27:32](#); [Mark 15:21](#)). I also want to remind us that Luke's account when written was based on eyewitness accounts, it is not just a rewriting of Mark's gospel, he fact checked so you and I would be sure of the things we are taught about our faith ([Luke 1:1-4](#)). The cross was laid upon Simon, not because he did anything wrong, but because he was in the right place at the right time, provided by God to be Jesus' assistant in these last moments of His life. **Peter had abandoned Him**, so the Father provides Jesus with a proper helper so that He may finish His course well. Just so you know this event doesn't leave Simon unchanged. In Romans ([16:13](#)), Paul mentions the family of Simon, his wife and his son Rufus, leaders in the church, a woman that loved Paul as a son. **This means the family had been led to faith through Simon's belief in Jesus.** Simon got the greatest reward and the greatest honor in all the world because he was in the right place at the right time, **by grace. Never complain about the cross you bear family for it too may be that which points your loved ones to Christ!** Thank God for your opportunities to serve Jesus!

Why does Simon have to carry this cross, this beam that would rest across the shoulders of Jesus, that He most likely would be tied to? As we learned last week, Jesus has been beaten, punched, and perhaps whipped twice ([John 19:1](#)), a Roman scourging by men unsympathetic to Jesus whose job was to be cruel on purpose to strike fear into the Jews to keep them from rebelling. He was up all night before in the garden where He prayed and fought with His own anxieties that He sweated great drops of blood ([Hematidrosis](#)), He did not sleep, has



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suffered mock trials, and by now has endured major blood loss and still according to this story He is **not done yet with His mission to save.**

There was still more to do! It does not matter if you have won the cross fit games 5 times like [Mat Fraser](#) **physical training does not prepare you for this!** This is where the will takes over and it drives the body to do things it is not supposed to do. In that the greater feat, is that Jesus through the pain, is recapturing His mind, He is becoming aware of His surroundings, He is no longer just letting them torture Him, He is thinking about what to do, He is planning, He is being propelled by concern over actions that must still take place. **He cannot rest until all His people are taken care of.**

**<sup>27</sup> And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. <sup>28</sup> But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' <sup>30</sup> Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' <sup>31</sup> For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"**

There are women lining the street now who were mourning and lamenting of Jesus. Why? Because they recognized the innocence, the stature, of this good man doing a good thing for Israel, they know of His love for not just the men but the daughters of Israel. Jesus has been their champion teaching men how to love their wives, and their families well. He has been the model Son by which all these women wanted their boys to be like. He is the model man by which they pointed their daughters to find someone like Him. What a display of cruelty! No, they want Jesus to know, that they know this is wrong, they want their people, their men, who deserted Him to know this is wrong.

Jesus sees them and instead of accepting the comfort, after all the betrayal, of having someone care about what happens to Him, He instead thinks of them. He instructs them, He warns them of the impending doom again of what will happen to Jerusalem of which we know happens in 70 AD. Multiple times now Luke has recorded where Jesus has taught on the destruction of Jerusalem, what will



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happen because of their rejection of Him (Luke 11:49-51; 13:1-5, 34-35; 19:41-44; 21:20-24). He makes sure they know, just in case their husbands don't tell them, He'll tell them, they will believe Him, they will remember. And we know they did, because in history it is told the church escaped Jerusalem before it was surrounded, destroyed, and all in it were massacred. Jesus would not rest before He would see to the needs of His future church in Jerusalem, already His High priestly prayer ([John 17](#)) was being answered by His Father, on the way to His death.

**The Path to Salvation was paved with what Concerns Christ, and because He is concerned for us, people can find Rest... (The church was saved that day.)**

Let me speak to the ladies in here for a moment. I know you all worry about the future, your kids, your security, but I want you to know something, **Jesus is more concerned about you and it, than you are**. If Jesus under the duress of crucifixion is saving His church how much more as the resurrected King in full control of His divine power is ensuring that those who love Him **will reach His side one day**. **Question you have to deal with today is** are you ok with putting your life in His hands even if your life doesn't always look at how you think it should look?

Ladies, sisters, the deliverance of the curse from the garden, that wanting to be in control, wanting to lord over your husbands, over life, **can be conquered by letting Jesus Lord over you**. Out of all people in this world, out of all the men you have known, I point you to the one you don't have to worry about, I point you to the one that you know is trustworthy and true, the one that knows what you need more than you do. Ladies fret not but heed the words of Jesus today, He knows you love Him, place your cares at His feet and love your family without manipulation but with submission to the headship in your home and a forgiving heart and let Him fix your family.

**The Path to Salvation is paved with what Concerns Christ, and because He is concerned for you, ladies you can find Rest...**

**2. Concerns for the Ignorant People that know not what they do (vs. 32-35).**



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<sup>32</sup>Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>And Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**" And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup>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!"

Last week we saw that Luke mentioned that the people were there with the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Chief Priests and they allowed themselves to be swayed by the crowds to be influenced. They along with the rulers of the Jews called for the release of Barabbas and called for the crucifixion of Jesus. The path of the "*Via Dolorosa*" ends at a place called Golgotha, the place of the skull, associated with death. They crucified Him between two criminals, most likely Barabbas's comrades in the rebellion. He was the front and center person on that hill so everyone would see the leader, the political mastermind, the one that was worthy of blame.

### Crucifixion:

Crucifixion originated in Persia (300-400 BC) and it originated from the strangest circumstance. The Persians had a deity by the name of Ormuzd, O-R-M-U-Z-D. And Ormuzd was the god who considered the earth to be sacred. And so anyone who was executed had to be lifted up above the earth lest that person being executed, by virtue of his evil, would defile the sacredness of the earth. And so the Persians devised a crucifixion as a way to suspend a person above the earth in execution. It passed from the Persians to the Carthaginians and somehow the Romans took it from those in Carthage and used it, and I mean the Romans used it extensively. From the best we could ascertain at the time of Christ and around the era of Roman occupation of Israel, the **Romans crucified at least 30,000 Jews.** And they did it all over the highways in order to warn people what happens to someone who violates Roman law. Vivid illustrations of the foolishness of going against Rome.... [**Carrying the cross and shame**]- And He (**Jesus**) would go in this fashion: The prisoner would be surrounded by a quaternion, four Roman soldiers, one at each corner, moving Him through with other soldiers before and behind. And with the city of Jerusalem swollen with the populace of immigrants who had come in for the time of the Passover, pilgrims who had come to worship at this special time, and now this being the very Passover day and everything in motion, the place would be crawling with people. And they would parade the prisoner down the main streets. And hanging around the prisoner's neck was a placard, or being held by



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someone walking in front of him, on which was the indictment for which the prisoner was to be executed so that everybody would know the price of the crime. And so Jesus, carrying His own cross, is paraded before the populace before He ever is able to leave the city, so that everyone is warned about how it is to violate Roman law, to be brought to execution by the Romans. So the procession moves through the streets.<sup>2</sup>

Upon reaching the hill they would have stripped Him again most likely to heighten the shame of the event. They would have placed Him on the cross and put his feet one over each other and hammered (through the Achilles Tendon area) a 7/9-inch nail through both feet to pin Him there. Then the same procedure was done to each wrist, so the growth plate at the end of the wrist would keep the nail from sliding out between the fingers. The expectation was also not to get Him too high up so people could slap and spit if they wanted to, to cast more humiliation on Him. Then the prisoner would be left to die and sometimes it would take days to die in this way, left to the elements, the birds of the air, and eventually the condemned would suffocate because their muscles would give up finally in trying to push themselves up so they could breathe better. It is the most horrible and cruel of deaths meant to be an example and Romans were experts at making examples.

Now, in the middle of this horrific scene again we have the people just watching, they are no longer jeering, yelling, but yet the leaders of the Jews are. It is on this scene that Jesus' gaze falls upon those that a few hours earlier had condemned Him. Then Jesus, in the middle of pain, in the middle of His humiliation, in the middle of all the cruelty being done unto Him, as a **stark contrast to the evilness of men but His goodness, Jesus demonstrates the love of God, to love them as their King.** *"Father forgive them for they know not what they do"*. He sees that they have been deceived, He sees the ones responsible for this tragedy mocking Him, He sees the people looking on not knowing what to make of this. Jesus asks for forgiveness and **again we know His prayer was answered!**

In Acts, again Luke records what happens to people that Jesus prayed for and was concerned for and would not rest even while He hung on a cross:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/2395/the-wickedness-of-the-crucifixion-part-1>



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**Acts 2:22-24; 32-33; 36-41 ESV (Peter)**

<sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup> God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ... <sup>32</sup> This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup> Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing... <sup>36</sup> Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about **three thousand souls**.

Because Jesus was concerned about the people, He saved a remnant that day on the cross, the Father heard the prayers of Jesus, He forgave and spared some and they went on to become the first converts, making up the first church in Jerusalem.

Perhaps like these people you have felt the conviction of turning your back on Jesus. One of the ploys that the devil uses is to make you think that your sins are unforgiveable, to make you think that God wants nothing to do with you. My friend, **the Jesus I see in scripture prayed for the very people that wanted His death, and the Father forgave the very men that called for His execution.** Let me ask you today what do you think you have done that compares to the crime of killing the only innocent man, that makes you think God can't forgive you for!?





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So you have lied, you have hidden things from your family, you have aborted a child, you have committed adultery, you have stolen from loved ones, you have dishonored your parents, you have an addiction to porn, sex, or any substance, you name it, and family I still need to tell you God wants to forgive you of all of that, and if you are feeling something in your heart today for Jesus, it is only because the Spirit, as Peter said, is making you see Him!

**The Path to Salvation is paved with what Concerns Christ, and because He is concerned for you, we can find rest from our guilt, so we can find rest...**

This morning I implore you stop making excuses for why you can't come to terms with Jesus, at least stop blaming Him and be honest, this **has got more to do with you and not wanting Him** than Him not being able to accept what you have done. Perhaps if you are honest you will know how to pray, to ask Him to change your heart in this.

**3. Concern over the 1 Lost Sheep that still needed Saving (vs. 39-43).**

<sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." <sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup>And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Now it seems like a weird time to offer Him a drink, and then a drink of sour wine? This wine is recorded in the other gospels to be mixed with something. Some say gall which some people say was Myrrh. There is a recorded tradition by the women of Jerusalem that was an act of charity, since they had so many Jews being crucified, they would make the wine for the prisoners to remove some of the pain endured



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by the cross.<sup>3</sup> It was this wine that Jesus refused, and at this point in the story we all would be encouraging Him to take it!?

Then there is this dialogue between the criminals and Jesus. One criminal begins to mock Jesus as the soldiers were, as pain drove him to lash out as an animal would. Or perhaps it was Satan's last attempt to see if Jesus would get off the cross, to see if He would call for the angels to rescue Him? But the other criminal comes to Jesus' defense and ask Jesus to remember him when He comes into His Kingdom. The admission is, **I believe in an afterlife, I believe in who you are Jesus, I believe that you have the power to acquit me** on the reason why I am up here, **He's been gifted with faith.**

Jesus' answer to Him was **given out of concern for him**, and so we would know a great truth of scripture. But in order to have the where-with-all to give the answer Jesus must refrain from the offer of a narcotic, He needs His wits about Him, His job is not done yet. His answer becomes the Standard for all time, **when someone believes in the Christ, the King by Faith then one is saved**, FOR Jesus's answer shows the reward for faith.

Jesus' answer also shows us, one of the great answers we all have sought for in our lives, "What happens to us when we die?" Of which Paul solidifies with the declaration of this doctrine:

**2 Corinthians 5:6-9 ESV**

**<sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.**

The moment we die, the moment our eyes stop seeing this physical world is the moment they see the next world and their savior, for those that have been given the gift of faith.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-wine-jesus-drank>



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Today family I just want to leave you with this that the horrors of the cross only stood to magnify the glories of our Christ. Your King, even on the path to His death, was fully aware and concern for the things of the Kingdom. He is the epitome of selfless leadership.

**The Path to Salvation is paved with what Concerns Christ, and because He is concerned for us, we can Rest.... For those that have put their Faith in Him.**

Have you identified that Jesus is not just a man, not just King, He is your God and King?

Have you identified that Jesus has the power to save you in whatever way He wants and whatever way He wants is the Right way to save you? (Job)

Have you ever called out to Jesus in prayer "remember me Jesus, have mercy on me my God?"

**If you have answered YES to all of these have REST today. If not, would you not consider believing on Him today?**

**PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

**BENEDICTION**

Go in the name of the Father, that graces us with faith causing us to believe in the tremendous display of Jesus strength on the *Via Delarosa*.

Go in the name of the Son, that kept His wits, that finished the course, and kept the faith so that we may find rest in Him.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that opens our eyes to the need for Him and helps us to declare to the world the best is yet to come in our future with our resurrected King.