“FATHER, FORGIVE THEM”

Luke 23:26–56

Key Verse: 23:34a

1. As they led Jesus away, whom did they seize to carry his cross, where was he from, where had he been going, and why? (26; cf. Mk15:21) How did this injustice become a blessing to this man? How did he become an example for us? (cf. 9:23)
2. Describe those following Jesus (27). Why were some mourning and wailing? What did Jesus tell them to weep for instead? (28) What did he predict? (29) What prophecy did he quote? (30) What do his words in verse 31 mean, and what do we learn from this?
3. What else did they do in staging Jesus’ execution? (32–33) Think about the meaning of this place (cf. Heb13:13) and of his execution in between criminals (cf. Isa53:12). What do these things mean to us? (cf. Ro10:11)
4. How did Jesus respond to the evil being done to him? (34a) What was his reason in asking for their forgiveness? What did they not know, and why? What does this prayer show about Jesus? How do we receive God’s forgiveness through him? (cf. Ac2:38; 10:43; 13:38; 26:18) Why should we also imitate his prayer? (6:27,28; 11:4; Eph4:32)
5. What did they do with his clothes? (34b) How did the rulers and soldiers taunt him? (35–37; cf. Ps22:7,17,18) Why did Jesus save others but not himself? How and why should we follow him in this? (9:24)
6. What was the purpose of the written notice above him, and what truth is in it? (38)

Describe the two criminals’ conflict (39–41). What did the second say to Jesus, and what does this show about this man? (42) How did Jesus answer him? (43) How does this epitomize the good news of Jesus?

1. What are the meanings of the mid-day darkness and the torn temple curtain? (44,45) When he died, what did Jesus say, and what can we learn from it? (46) How did the centurion respond, why is this surprising, and what can we learn from it? (47) What did the crowd and the women do? (48,49)
2. Who came forward to help with Jesus’ burial, and what can we learn from him? (50–53) What did the women also do? (54–56) How do these details set the stage for Jesus’ resurrection?