

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #92

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 23:26-34

Sermon Date: July 8, 2007

Will you Walk toward Forgiveness?

Put yourself in Simon from Cyrene's shoes. Imagine walking over 800 miles from Boston to Columbus, Ohio to attend a great religious event. Upon arriving in the city, you are exhausted from the very long walk but excited about the event that is about to begin. As you reach the city, just in time for the 9:00 AM prayer meeting, you come upon a crowd heading out of the city, with a man struggling greatly to carry some sort of gallows on his shoulders, mocked and yelled at by the rough, abusive policemen forcing him to continue despite his exhaustion.

He collapses under the load, and a policeman suddenly grabs you from the crowd. "You carry it for him," he barks at you. You are shocked, humiliated, scared – but you do what you have to do. It is a heavy load, and the path goes uphill. You are heading in the opposite direction from the religious ceremonies you came for. But you are walking with Jesus. You'll replay that day's events in your mind a thousand times. You'll spend the rest of your life seeking to know the one whose cross you carried.

Join us now as we take such a walk, experiencing Jesus' compassion, his forgiveness, ... his saving grace.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have. Also read the two other gospel accounts on the next page.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 23:26-34</p> <p>²⁶ As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'" ³⁰ Then</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"</p> <p>³¹ For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"</p> <p>³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.</p>	

Scripture	Observations
<p style="text-align: center;">Mark 15:20-24</p> <p>²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. ²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">John 19:16-18, 23-24</p> <p>¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ Here they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. ...</p> <p>²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Look Closer:

4. What do you notice about how Jesus interacted with people as he endured this march toward crucifixion and death?

5. What did these people who were following Jesus experience?

a. Simon from Cyrene (23:26)

b. The mourning women (23:27-31)

c. The men who crucified Jesus (23:33-34)

d. How do the above ways people experienced Jesus remind you of ways you've experienced Jesus in your own life and Christian walk?

6. Do you think the future time that Jesus is referring to in verses 29-31 is the upcoming fall of Jerusalem (which we know occurred in 70 AD), or the end times when Jesus will come again? What do you base your opinion on? Some helpful scriptures include Isaiah 2:6-21, Hosea 10 (10:8 in particular), and Revelation 6:16.

7. What is the meaning of Luke 23:31?

8. Jesus forgives the men who were killing him. What does that mean to you? How does it relate to your life?

9. Complete the following sentences:

a. If the Spirit of Jesus lives in me, and Jesus was capable of saying "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" to those who had just hammered nails into his hands and feet and hung him on a cross to asphyxiate and die, then surely, by that same Spirit of Jesus, ...

I can forgive _____ for _____ .

I can forgive _____ for _____ .

I can forgive _____ for _____ .

b. If Jesus was able to forgive those who crucified him, surely he is also able to forgive me for ...

c. Take time to pray about those you need to forgive, and about those things you need to receive forgiveness for. Ask God to show you any specific steps you need to take to reconcile with others and/or to repent (turn from) your own sinfulness.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

10. In Luke 9:23 Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." How could you follow in Jesus' footsteps this week, carrying your cross daily, and climbing your own hill in a manner similar to Jesus – i.e. with compassion toward others along the way, and even forgiveness to those who will seek to do you harm? What would such Christ-likeness look like in your life this week?