

Which Side Are You On?



SSBC Luke Bible Study #93

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 23:35-43

Sermon Date: Jul 15, 2007

When Jesus began his public ministry back in Luke 4:18, he used the words of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 61:1-2) to let the world know that:

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Now, some three years later, we find him crucified, with two condemned prisoners hanging on crosses beside him. The criminal on one side rejects Jesus and mocks him along with the crowd. But the criminal on the other side somehow comes to understand and accept the freedom Jesus offers.

What about you? Which side are you on? If Jesus can transform the heart of a criminal deserving of the death penalty, then he surely can save you – if you let him. Have you let him? ... And if you have allowed Jesus to save you, are you living accordingly – turning away from sin, living sacrificially, submitting to God's will over your own preferences? ... Which side are you on?

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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1. LISTEN TO THE PASSAGE:

Read through this week's Bible passage several times. Try to listen for what God is saying to you as you read.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

⁴³ Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."



2. STUDY THE PASSAGE: Now let's break this passage down into five parts, and take a closer look at each one separately.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

i. What do you notice about this verse? What do you wonder about it?

ii. What do you learn from it? What does it mean?

iii. How does this verse relate to your life?

iv. Try turning this verse into a prayer – and then pray it.

3. Study the next two verses:

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

i. What do you notice about this part? What do you wonder about it?

ii. What do you learn from it? What does it mean?

iii. How do these verses relate to your life?

iv. Try turning these verses into a prayer – and then pray it.

4. Study the next two verses:

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

i. What do you notice about this part? What do you wonder about it?

ii. What do you learn from it? What does it mean?

iii. How do these verses relate to your life?

iv. Try turning these verses into a prayer – and then pray it.

5. Study the next two verses:

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

i. What do you notice about this part? What do you wonder about it?

ii. What do you learn from it? What does it mean?

iii. How do these verses relate to your life?

iv. Try turning these verses into a prayer – and then pray it.

6. Study the last two verses:

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

i. What do you notice about this part? What do you wonder about it?

ii. What do you learn from it? What does it mean?

iii. How do these verses relate to your life?

iv. Try turning these verses into a prayer – and then pray it.

