

March 28, 2021 **Sermon:** Listen to the Cross

Questions for Reflection:

The first word: Read Luke 23:32-37

Who is Jesus praying for? How does this prayer influence how you pray for others? Do you take time on a regular basis to confess your sins so that you might enjoy the freedom of forgiveness? How do you need to experience God's forgiveness in a fresh way today? Who needs to experience your forgiveness?

The second word: Read Luke 23:39-43

What "heart attitudes" characterize the two thieves? Discuss the prayer of the thief and the passion of Jesus for the lost. What does this verse tell us about what happens when a believer dies?

The third word: Read John 19: 25-27

What does Mary's presence at the cross evoke in you? How important was John's presence/availability to Jesus? How does the cross form new family connections?

The fourth word: Matthew 27:45, 46

See Psalm 22:1, 2. What does this "word" from the cross mean to you? In what sense does God the Father "abandon" God the Son? What does it mean to you that Jesus was abandoned by the Father so that you might not be?

The fifth word: John 19: 28, 29

How do you respond to Jesus' statement "I am thirsty"? What does this statement suggest to you about Jesus? About yourself? What does it mean to "thirst" for the Lord? Can you think of a time in your life when you "thirsted" for the Lord (or maybe an example of someone)?

The sixth word: John 19:30

What is finished? Do you feel that you live as if Jesus finished the work of salvation? Is it hard for you to have confidence that God will finish that which he has begun in you (Philippians 1:6)?

The seventh word: Luke 23:44-49

How does the fact that the final word of Jesus from the cross was a quote from Psalm 31:5 impact you? What scripture do you cling to in times of difficulty? What makes it difficult for us to place our daily lives (and our future) in God's hands? How do you need to experience God's salvation through Christ in your life today?

APPLICATION: Discuss implications and applications to our lives as disciples of Jesus in light of the words of Jesus from the cross? What does it mean to live a cruciform ("in the shape of a cross") life?