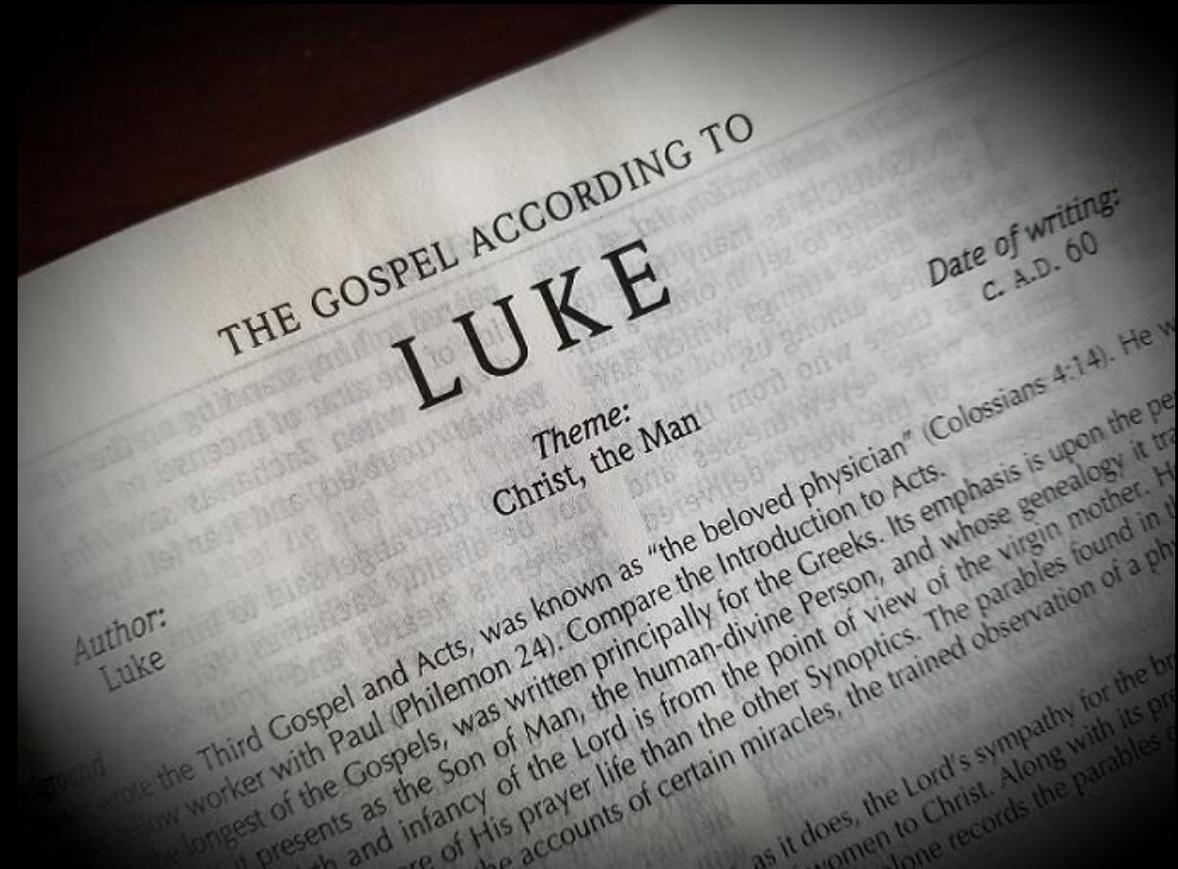


Verse by Verse

Luke 23



Previously in Luke

Previously in Luke

- Last week we looked at Christ's Last Passover with his disciples.
- We saw his betrayal and arrest, and considered the New Covenant prophesied in the Old Testament.
- As a fitting application, we celebrated the Lord's Supper together.

Luke 23 Introduction

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- Jesus now appears before Pilate and Herod.
- We will cover his crucifixion, death and burial.
- As we consider what Christ has done for us, we will also consider an appropriate response.
- There are important ways we need to respond to him and ways we should respond toward others.

Luke 23 Key Verse

Luke 23 Key Verse

- Luke 23:34a (ESV)

And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Luke 23 Outline

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- As we did last week, we will first read the chapter all the way through.
- Then we will look at a few things.

Luke 23 Outline

Think about these questions as we read.

1. What is the meaning of Christ's death?
2. How should we respond to him?
3. How should we respond toward others?

1. How should we understand the death of Christ?

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- We can first look at the blatant injustice.

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- Luke 23:4 (ESV)

Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.”

1. How should we understand the death of Christ?

- We can first look at the blatant injustice.
- **Luke 23:13-16** (ESV)

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him ...

1. How should we understand the death of Christ?

- We can first look at the blatant injustice.
- **Luke 23:13-16** (ESV)

... ¹⁵ Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶ I will therefore punish and release him.”

1. How should we understand the death of Christ?

- We can first look at the blatant injustice.
- **Luke 23:22** (ESV)

A third time he said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.”

1. How should we understand the death of Christ?

- What does that mean for us?

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- What does that mean for us?
- **1 Peter 2:23-24** (ESV)

²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1. How should we understand the death of Christ?

- What does that mean for us?
- **Romans 5:6-11** (ESV)

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, ...

1. How should we understand the death of Christ?

- What does that mean for us?
- **Romans 5:6-11** (ESV)

... much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

2. How should we respond to him?

2. How should we respond to him?

- Simon of Cyrene provides us an example.
- **Luke 23:26** (ESV)

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.

2. How should we respond to him?



This action illustrates the nature of discipleship, which involves taking the cross and following Jesus ... Simon of Cyrene is a model for disciples who share Jesus' trials.¹

*– Paul John Isaak,
University of Namibia*

2. How should we respond to him?

- Jesus said it earlier in Luke's Gospel.
- **Luke 9:23** (ESV)

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

2. How should we respond to him?

- Jesus said it earlier in Luke's Gospel.
- **Luke 14:27** (ESV)

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

2. How should we respond to him?



The followers of Jesus are summoned to take up their cross day after day. As used by Jesus, taking up one's cross daily means that discipleship is a most painful task because it is a self-giving and self-forgetting, like dragging a cross for one's own execution ...

*– Paul John Isaak,
University of Namibia*

2. How should we respond to him?



Taking up the cross means that the Christian life is a dying daily to self, much as Paul does when he says, 'I die every day' (1 Cor 15:31).²

*– Paul John Isaak,
University of Namibia*

2. How should we respond to him?

- Consider how Paul viewed the cross.
- **Galatians 2:20** (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2. How should we respond to him?

- Consider how Paul viewed the cross.
- **Galatians 6:14** (ESV)

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

3. How should we respond toward others?

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- We can each take on Christ's attitude of humility.
- **Philippians 2:1-8** (ESV)

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ...

3. How should we respond toward others?

- We can each take on Christ's attitude of humility.
- **Philippians 2:1-8** (ESV)

... ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ...

3. How should we respond toward others?

- We can each take on Christ's attitude of humility.
- **Philippians 2:1-8** (ESV)

... ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

3. How should we respond toward others?

- We can lay down our lives for one another.
- **1 John 3:16** (ESV)

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

3. How should we respond toward others?

- We can follow Christ's example every chance we get.
- **1 Peter 2:21-25** (ESV)

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ...

3. How should we respond toward others?

- We can follow Christ's example every chance we get.
- **1 Peter 2:21-25** (ESV)

... ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

One Last Look at Jesus

One Last Look at Jesus

- Luke 23:34a (ESV)

And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

One Last Look at Jesus

- Paul seems to confirm this when he says,
- **1 Corinthians 2:8** (ESV)

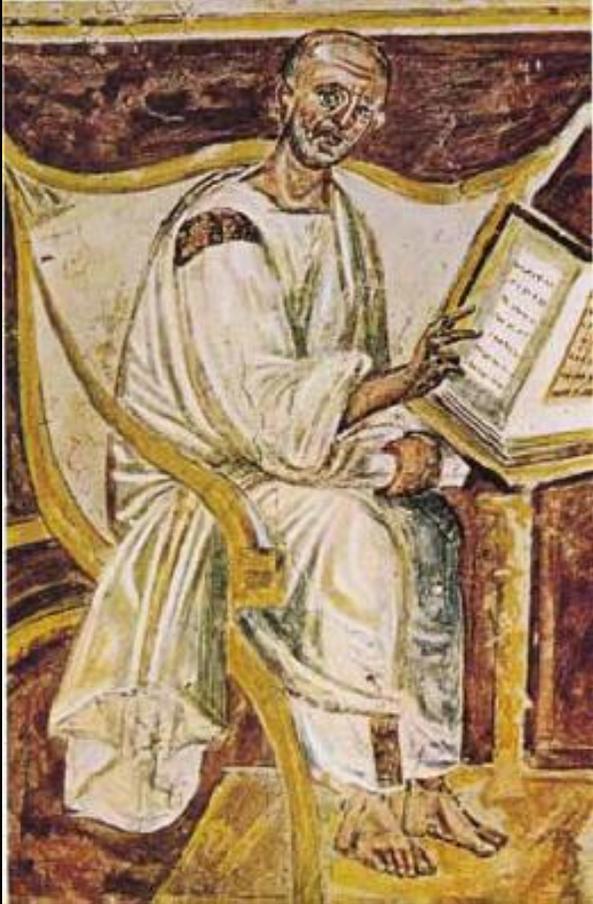
None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

One Last Look at Jesus

- And yet Jesus insists on praying for those who are in the act of putting him to death.
- **Luke 23:34a** (ESV)

And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

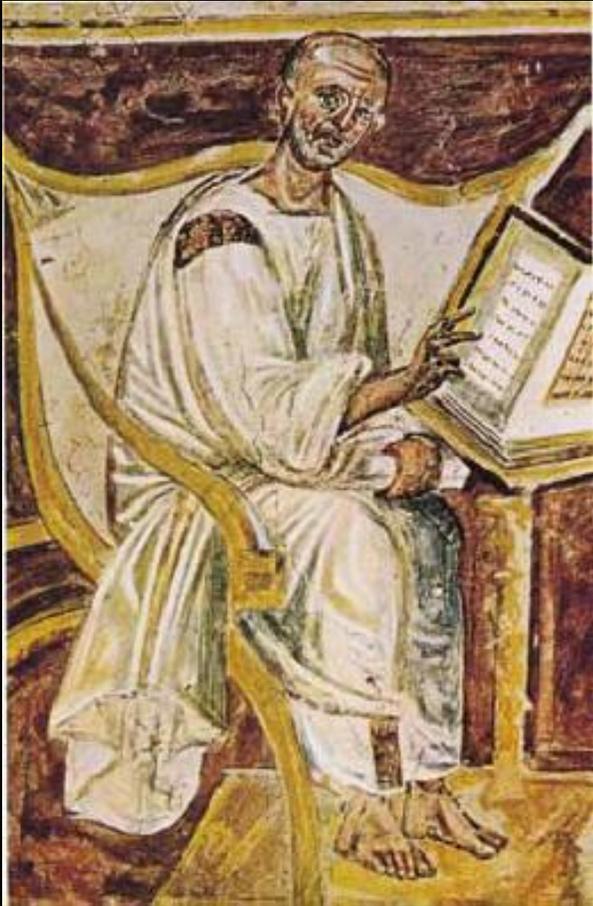
One Last Look at Jesus



When he was praying as he hung on the cross, he could see and foresee. He could see all his enemies. He could foresee that many of them would become his friends. That is why he was interceding for them all. They were raging, but he was praying ...

– Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430)

One Last Look at Jesus



... They were saying to Pilate “Crucify,” but he was crying “Father, forgive.” He was hanging from the cruel nails, but he did not lose his gentleness. He was asking for pardon for those from whom he was receiving such hideous treatment. ³

– Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430)

One Last Look at Jesus

- When we turn to Christ in faith and trust, we receive a complete pardon for our sins.
- We are now freely united with the Father through Christ's death.

One Last Look at Jesus

- We need to walk in that forgiveness, knowing that our guilt, shame and sin has been removed by Jesus.
- Christ now gives us the capacity to take up our cross and follow him.
- As part of that dying to self, he gives us the capacity to forgive.

Luke 23 Key Points

Luke 23 Key Points

1. When we look at the injustice that Christ endured, we learn that he endured it for us.
2. We respond to him best when we follow him, taking up our own cross as his disciples.
3. Like Paul, we can consider ourselves crucified with Christ, so that he now lives through us.

Luke 23 Key Points

4. Like Peter, we can look at Christ's example and learn to walk in his steps.
5. Like Jesus, we can learn to forgive our enemies, knowing that perhaps one day, they will become our friends.

Luke 23 Key Verse

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- Luke 23:34a (ESV)

And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Luke 23 A Prayer

Luke 23 A Prayer

- Lord Jesus,
- We thank you for enduring the cross in our place so that our sins can be forgiven.
- We thank you for humbling yourself beyond anything we can imagine for our sake.
- Teach us now to live for you and teach us to live like you did, to the glory of the Father and for the benefit of others.

Luke 23 A Prayer

- Help us to love even as you did, even to the point of death. And help us to forgive those who sin against us, even as we have been forgiven.
- We want to be like you, Lord Jesus.
- Amen

Luke 23 References

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