

Luke
See Jesus
What Does Jesus Want from Us?
Luke 23:18-31; Romans 1:18-25

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / May 26, 2024

I. Your Hostility Will Keep You From Truth

Luke 23:20-23 “Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹ but they kept shouting, ‘Crucify, crucify Him!’ ²²A 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.’ ²³ But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that He should be crucified. And their voices prevailed.”

Let’s be clear what’s going on right here. This is the most innocent person who ever lived. Pilate knows it and states it **3x** in the context of a civil trial. His wife knows it. Herod knows it. And the Jews themselves know it.

But it doesn’t stop them from being driven by their own commitment to self-autonomy and self-righteousness so that they want Him dead!

Self-autonomy and self-righteousness are what cause human beings to go to war against this good news of Jesus and the Gospel!

Romans 1:18-22, 25 tells us it’s not just the Jews that are guilty of this because it’s a human heart condition that we’re all born with.

II. Your Curiosity Will Not Be Enough

Luke 23:27 “And there followed Him a great multitude of the people...”

The great multitude of people that followed Jesus to the cross were not committed to Him, they were following Him to see what would happen next.

Human beings are drawn to any spectacle, drama, conflict, or clash of ruling powers. But that interest has nothing to do with commitment and everything to do with curiosity and amusement.

There were plenty of curious people then and they’re still around today because Jesus is the most interesting, talked about, written about, documented, and debated historical figure that ever walked this earth.

But the tsunami of curiosity that surrounds Him is not the same as commitment. He doesn’t call for your curiosity, He calls for your commitment.

III. Your Sympathy Will Do You No Good

Luke 23:27 “And there followed Him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for Him.”

These are professional mourners, because no Jew would be executed by Romans without an appropriate kind of dutiful mourning. It was their custom for professional, female mourners to wail at the death of someone.

But in light of the grace and mercy He'd shown to women – from prostitutes, to a woman married 5 times, to a woman possessed by 7 demons - it's likely they had a genuine measure of sympathy and sorrow for His impending death because not everyone hated Jesus.

These women represent people who sympathized with Him and were attracted to Him for His beauty, tenderness, and compassion. They had some feelings for Jesus, but they did not put their faith in Jesus as their Savior.

There will always be people like that that sympathize with Him and have some feelings for Him, but do not put their faith in Him.

A. Jesus Doesn't Want Our Sympathy

Luke 23:28 “But turning to them Jesus said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.’”

He's saying, “I don't need your sympathy, because I'm not a victim.”

But if you understood what was actually going on right now in this moment, you would weep for yourselves because you are the victims of sin that's taken you captive to do its will. And if you don't repent, you will be judged.

In other words, you're sorrowful and somewhat sympathetic, but you still see Me as a senseless tragedy because you don't understand that My death is not just about Me, it's about you because I've come to do for you what you could never do for yourself and you still don't understand that.

Your sinful condition and eternal destiny are not changed by having nice thoughts about Jesus or simply appreciating Him.

B. Jesus Wants Us To Be Ready

Luke 23:29-30 “For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’”

He doesn't thank them for their sympathetic thoughts. He rebukes them for their misdirected sorrow and tells them they should be weeping for themselves because judgment is coming.

While Jesus was talking to them about the judgment that was coming in A.D. 70 when Rome would level Jerusalem, He's also talking to us today because **Revelation 6** has the same terrifying picture of judgment that is coming for the world that does not receive Christ as Lord.

Revelation 6:15-17 “Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,¹⁷ for the great day of Their wrath has come, and who can stand?’”

IV. Your Simple Faith Can Make You His Child

Luke 23:39-43 shows us what simple, saving faith looks like.

Luke 23:42 “And he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’”

You must see yourself as a sinner in need of a savior and put your simple, childlike faith in Him. That’s your only hope for salvation, for heaven, and for new life.