

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**Passage: Luke 23:26-56 (ESV)**

Illustration:

Need: The King of the Jews is led to the cross where, through suffering and death, He will win forever more the victory over sin, Satan and the curse!

**I. The King Warns (26-31)**

- Just prior to verse 26 Jesus, like all those crucified, was scourged , brutally whipped near death.
- Jesus speaks a warning to those who are mourning for His suffering of impending judgment.
- The nation will soon suffer for the rejection of their Messiah, King.

**II. The King Prays (32-38)**

- Luke does not give a crucifixion play-by-play because the practice was unfortunately all too familiar.
- The two criminals crucified with Jesus were likely accomplices of the insurrectionist, Barabbas.
- As creation commits the greatest act of evil, Jesus prays for the forgiveness of all those involved.
- He was & is King, but the one thing He absolutely could not do was save Himself.

**III. The King Saves (39-43)**

- This sacrifice that provides salvation to all who by faith believe yielded immediate fruit.
- The penitent thief reveals the way of salvation:
  - The fear of God.
  - The recognition of sin and admission of guilt.
  - The embrace of Jesus as Savior and King.
- Jesus said that “Truly” this one was a citizen of the Kingdom & would be with Him in Paradise!

**IV. The King Dies (44-49)**

- The religious opposition wanted Jesus to perform a cosmic sign, today they got what they wanted.
- It became dark at noon and stayed that way until 3PM. (See Matt. 27:51 - earthquake, resurrections)
- The veil in the temple was torn (Matt. 27:51 “from top to bottom”)
- Jesus cries to His Father words of confident trust, “Into Your hands I commit my spirit!”
- The centurion correctly deduces Jesus’ innocence and all those watching began to feel the weight of what had actually happened.

**V. When we survey the wondrous cross...**

1. We witness the central event of all human history.
2. We witness the fulfillment of God’s salvation promises.
3. We witness the suffering Servant, Messiah, the Lamb of God taking away the sin of the world.
4. We witness the Messiah, King of Kings, victoriously lifted up over the subjects of His kingdom.
5. We witness the defeat of Satan, sin and the curse of death.
6. We witness God’s definitive answer to all our brokenness.
7. We witness the way of forgiveness and entrance into kingdom citizenship.
8. We witness “Love so amazing, so divine, [that it] demands our souls, our lives, our all!”