



Connect Group study

John 19:16-18 (part 1)

All four Gospel accounts tell of the two thieves crucified either side of Jesus, but only the Gospel of Luke tells the full story of the two thieves. A number of lessons can be drawn from the story of the thieves.

Read John 19:16-18, Luke 23:26-46, Matthew 27:38-44, Mark 15:27-32

Reflect

Q1. Why do you think both of the criminals on the cross insulted and mocked Jesus? What human trait prompted them to do this? (Mt 27:44) (Lk 23:39)

Q2. Look at Mark 15:25, Matthew 27:38, 44-45 & Luke 23:42-44 What do these verses in terms of timing's related to the crucifixion tell us.

A: Mark's account says Jesus & the thieves were crucified at 9am

A: Matthews account depicts the thieves both initially hurling insults at Jesus

A: Luke's account depicts it was not until 12noon (a 3-hour gap) that the second thief had a change of heart towards Jesus

What do you think made him change his mind in these 3 hours?

Q3. Do we believe the thief was saved? What evidence is there in this passage of true salvation? i.e. What were the elements of his faith? (see Lk 23:40- 41)

Q4. What are the elements of Jesus' promise to the thief in Lk 23:43?

Q5. The story of the thieves is (according to Mk 15:28, Lk 22:37) a fulfilment of OT prophecy. Predicted 700 years before Jesus' death Isaiah 53:12 tells us he will be "numbered with the transgressors" other translations use the word "rebels" or say "counted in with thieves and evildoers." What does it tell you about God that this event was planned 700 years before it happened?

Q6. What important things does this story tell us about salvation (see also Titus 3:5, Col 2:13-14, Rom 10:13, Eph 2:8-9, Mt 20:1-15)

Respond

Q7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through these passages?

Q8. We see in this passage one of the thieves changing his attitude towards Jesus. What one area in your life do you currently need to change your attitude, so it is more Christ like? Pray for each other for a soft heart towards Jesus, and for those in your life who are currently hard hearted towards Christ that they might change their mind.