

Following the Real Jesus:
With the Cross

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Luke 23: 26-43; Mark 15:21

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With the Cross

²⁶ As they led Jesus away, Simon, a man from Cyrene, was coming in from the fields. They forced him to carry Jesus' cross and to walk behind him. Luke 23:26

²¹ A man named Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was coming from the fields to the city. The soldiers forced Simon to carry the cross for Jesus. Mark 15:21

Eyewitness evidence
His death leads to life.

²⁷ A large crowd of people was following Jesus, including some women who were sad and crying for him. ²⁸ But Jesus turned and said to them, "Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Cry for yourselves and for your children. Luke 23:27-28

²⁹ The time is coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the women who cannot have children and who have no babies to nurse.' ³⁰ Then people will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' And they will say to the hills, 'Cover us!' Luke 23:29-30

³¹ If they act like this now when life is good, what will happen when bad times come?"
Luke 23:31

Jesus is referring to the Day of Judgment.
Hosea 10, Isaiah 2, Revelation 6

You should weep for yourselves.
You are also under a sentence of death.
Every individual will stand before God.

Until you weep for yourself, you can't weep correctly for me.

The people are asking for the mountains to fall on them. They want anything other than coming before God.

"Sin has deluded you all of your life and told you that if you don't remain independent you will never be happy." - Timothy Keller

³² There were also two criminals led out with Jesus to be put to death. ³³ When they came to a place called the Skull, the soldiers crucified Jesus and the criminals—one on his right and the other on his left. Luke 23:32-33

³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, because they don’t know what they are doing.” The soldiers threw lots to decide who would get his clothes. Luke 23:34

The love of Jesus is greater the closer in proximity he gets to you.
To step into someone's mess, you have to love them a lot.

³⁵ The people stood there watching. And the leaders made fun of Jesus, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself if he is God’s Chosen One, the Christ.” Luke 23:35

³⁶ The soldiers also made fun of him, coming to Jesus and offering him some vinegar. ³⁷ They said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!” Luke 23:36-37

³⁸ At the top of the cross these words were written: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁹ One of the criminals on a cross began to shout insults at Jesus: “Aren’t you the Christ? Then save yourself and us.” Luke 23:38-39

Save yourself! Who wouldn’t use power to save themselves?
Their only hope is if he stays on the cross.

Save yourself and us.
If there is a God save me from.... and I will believe.

- I know what I need.
- If there is a God, he should know, too.
- If I am unhappy, he is bad at being God or no God at all.

You can’t say no good can come out of any situation just because you can’t see any good in it.

⁴⁰ But the other criminal stopped him and said, “You should fear God! You are getting the same punishment he is. ⁴¹ We are punished justly, getting what we deserve for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Luke 23:40-41

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ Jesus said to him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:42-43

I want to know you, not just be saved from my problems.

“You will be with me in paradise”
Not just forgiven, but reconciled.