

# The Message of the Cross

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – September 10, 2023

## Luke 23:32-43

32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 33 When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals — one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." 36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." 38 There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. 39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

The cross declares...

## I. JESUS LOVES YOU

### Mark 10:32-34

32 They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. 33 "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, 34 who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

The cross declares...

## 2. SIN & DEATH HAS BEEN DEFEATED AND WE HAVE LIFE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST JESUS

### Colossians 2:13-14

13 When you were dead in your sins... God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

### Matthew 26:28

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

### Romans 3:25

God presented [Jesus] as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

### Romans 8:1

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

### John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

The cross declares...

## 3. WE CAN EITHER REJECT JESUS OR ASK FOR AND RECEIVE HIS MERCY

### Luke 23:39-43

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### 1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Which thief are you?