

The Thief on the Cross

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – March 29, 2026 (Palm Sunday)

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."

I 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.

1. JESUS ENDURED THE CROSS BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU

Isaiah 53:5

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Mark 10:32-34

32... 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."

Mark 10:32

They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid...

Luke 22:41-43

41 [Jesus] withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." 43... And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

John 10:18

(Jesus said) "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord."

2. JESUS OFFERS YOU MERCY AT THE CROSS

Luke 23:39-41

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him:... 40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God,"... 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

3. OUR RESPONSE DETERMINES OUR ETERNITY

Luke 23:42-43

42 Then [the repentant thief] said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 19:30 (Jesus said) "It is finished."

How do you respond to Jesus on the cross?