

## More Like Jesus in Death Lk. 23:32-46

*Thesis: To help us better understand the manner in which Christ died.*

### Introduction:

- A. It is no secret that we are going to die.
  - 1. Heb. 9:27a - it is appointed for men to die once.
  - 2. Unless Christ returns first, we will die.
  - 3. Therefore, we must be prepared for it.
  
- B. Even in death, Jesus leaves us an example to follow.

### I. Jesus was focused on His enemies (23:34).

#### A. The enemies of Christ persecuted Him and caused Him to suffer.

- 1. Crucifixion was the worst form of death.
- 2. The pain and agony of the cross is like nothing that we have ever experienced.
- 3. It was the people of Jesus (the Jews) who sent Jesus to the cross.

#### B. Even with all that they have done to Him, Jesus prays for their forgiveness (23:34).

- 1. Jesus had taught His disciples the value of forgiveness.
  - a. Mt. 18:21-35 – The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant.
  - b. Mt. 5:23-24 - Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, {24} leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.
- 2. Jesus was now giving them an example of the importance of forgiving others.

#### C. Even while facing death, Jesus focused on His enemies.

- 1. Today, when we die, we need to make sure that we are willing to forgive our enemies.
- 2. Jesus did not hold a grudge against those who killed Him; and neither should we.

### II. Jesus was focused on others (23:39-43).

#### A. While Jesus was on the cross, He was focused on others.

- 1. Jesus spoke to the thief that was with Him.
  - a. The two thieves had a conversation about Jesus.
    - 1) One thief ridiculed Jesus and challenged Him to take all three of them off of the cross.
    - 2) The other rebuked his partner and admitted that they deserved their punishment.

- 3) This thief begged Jesus to remember him when he died.
- b. Jesus says to the thief, “Today you will be with me in Paradise” (23:43).
2. Jesus also spoke to John concerning His mother.
  - a. Jn. 19:25-27 - Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. {26} When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” {27} Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.
  - b. Jesus wanted to make sure that His mother was taken care of after He was gone.
3. Even in death, Jesus was concerned with others.

**B. Today, when we face death, we are concerned with others.**

1. Many times, if we know we are going to die, we talk to our loved ones and make sure that they will be okay.
2. Most have wills that they leave so that their families can be provided for.
3. Notice the example of Paul.
  - a. Paul knew that he was going to die for the sake of Christ.
  - b. In all of the epistles that he wrote (especially Philippians), he is making sure that others know what they need to do.
  - c. Even in death, Paul was concerned with others.

**III. Jesus was focused on eternity (23:44-46).**

**A. As Jesus dies, He says, “Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit” (23:46).**

1. Jesus always thought about eternal things.
2. Jesus committed Himself to God.

**B. Today, when we die, we should focus on eternal things.**

1. Even though death can be a tragic thing, it does not have to be eternally tragic.
2. If we are a faithful child of God, we will have a home in heaven.

**Conclusion:**

- A. Even in death, Jesus constantly thought about eternal things.
  1. He prayed for the forgiveness of those who put Him on the cross.
  2. He made sure that others were taken care of, both physically and spiritually.
  3. He committed Himself to God.
- B. When we face death today, we should face it as Jesus did.