

The Crucifixion and the Criminals

Luke 23:32-43

May 22, 2016

1) Know the _____

Jesus knew His purpose and it was not His own, but the Father's (so is ours).

*And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, **not My will, but Yours, be done.**"*

Luke 22:41-42

Jesus could go through what He went through not only because He knew it was God's _____, but because that was what He was _____ for.

Isaiah 53, prophecy foretold.

Like Jesus, we know our purpose/God's Will. What is God's Will? Not what is God's Will for "my life" but what is God's Will? In following God's Will, He will provide each _____.

God's Will is for me to love Him with all of **my heart, soul, mind and strength**.

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:37

*Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, **but that the works of God should be revealed in him.**"*

John 9:1-3

Ultimately it is all for God's _____.

How could Jesus continue on at such a tough time?

He knew God was in _____.

It was about God's _____.

He knew His _____.

All of this is true for us as well.

2) Stay the _____

- They divided His garments and cast lots (vs. 34)
- They laughed at Him concerning saving Himself,
"He saved others, let Him save Himself" (vs. 35)
- The soldiers mocked Him, offering Him sour wine (vs. 36)
- Again, mocking, "IF you are King of the Jews, save yourself" (vs. 37)
- The criminals blasphemed Him (vs. 39)

How would you have responded if this were you? Jesus, again, knew there was an ultimate plan so He stayed the courses.

We know God is in control and His plan is perfect. We are to stay the course even when the ride is rough.

If you are following God with all you have and have people holding you accountable to God and the things of God, resist the urge to “defend” yourself.

Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.

Job 13:15

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

3) _____

In all that Jesus was experiencing, He was still forgiving up until His last breath.

And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.

Luke 23:33-34

But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Luke 23:40-43

So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, “Certainly this was a righteous Man!”

Luke 23:47

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1 John 3:16

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

We can forgive _____ because He has forgiven much. Have you been forgiven?

4) _____

But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.

Luke 23:49

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Matthew 16:24

Prayer Focus:

- **We would know and constantly remember our purpose.**
- **We would stay the course.**
- **We would receive God’s forgiveness and then pass forgiveness on.**
- **We would follow Jesus all of our days.**