

Father, Into Your Hands Luke 23:44-49

We have arrived at the point which Jesus has been steadily marching toward throughout his life, and toward which the entire Bible points. While we may never fully appreciate the entire gravity of this moment, it is good for us to pause and reflect through those who experienced it in real time.

Thinking it Through

“Where is God? ... Here He is—He is hanging here on this gallows.” — Elie Wiesel

“If I were God I would have arranged things differently... but I am not God.” — C. S. Lewis

“The cross stands at the center of the Christian faith... yet it remains a scandal.” — Fleming Rutledge

“The cross is the symbol of the torture of an innocent man.” — Bertrand Russell

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." — Paul

Working it Out

1. What might it look like practically for you to “slow down” and dwell on the meaning of the cross in everyday faith?
2. How does reflecting on the experience of darkness that surrounded Jesus' death on the cross effect our understanding and appreciation of the crucifixion?
3. How does an appreciation of the significance of the tearing of the temple curtain impact your understanding of Jesus' work on our behalf and our relationship with God?
4. As he is breathing his last, Jesus quotes Psalm 31:5. What does this prayer reveal about Jesus' relationship with the Father even in the moment of death?

5. Luke records different reactions from the centurion, the crowd, and Jesus' followers. Which do you currently identify with most? Have there been times when you have more identified with the reaction of another that Luke mentions?

6. In light of all Jesus experienced, why might it be significant that the first response Luke records to the crucifixion is that of a Roman centurion?

7. Hebrews calls believers to draw near, hold fast, and stir one another up because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. Which of those three do you find most challenging right now? Why?

Prayer Points

Father, we thank you that Jesus willingly entrusted himself into your hands and gave his life for our sin. Help us never to move too quickly past the cross, but to live in daily gratitude for what Christ has accomplished for us.

Father, because the curtain has been torn and access has been opened, help us to draw near to you with confidence and sincerity. Teach us to come to you freely in prayer and dependence.

Lord Jesus, you entrusted your spirit into the Father's hands. Teach us to entrust our lives, fears, and future into those same faithful hands.
