

➤ **Read Luke 23:26–43.**

1. Jesus started off carrying the crossbeam of his own cross (Jn. 19:17), but at some point the Romans need to press Simon of Cyrene into service to carry it. Why might Jesus have been unable to carry it the whole way? (Mt. 27:26, 30)
2. Who accompanies Jesus on his way to be crucified? (v. 27)
3. While the women who are mourning Jesus' impending death mean well, for whom does Jesus say they should be mourning instead? (v. 28)

Jesus is once again looking ahead to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. How does he view this future catastrophe?
vv. 29–30

Lk. 13:34–35

Lk. 19:41–44

📖* Lk. 21:20–24

Green Tree, Dry Tree

In verse 31 Jesus continues to speak about the destruction that will befall Jerusalem, using the image of a tree to make this point: “Just as it is unnatural for succulent, green wood to be burned, so contrary to nature is it for Jesus, the Innocent and Perfect Man, the Son of God, to undergo suffering and death. And where even He, who is guiltless of any sin against God or man, is to suffer and be crucified, how much worse will be the fate of the guilty nation which, like dry wood ready to be burned, is ripe for the impending judgments.”¹

4. What very difficult piece of his own teaching is Jesus living out even as he hangs on the cross? (v. 34a; Lk. 6:27–36)

5. There is deep humiliation in hanging on a cross as a criminal—likely naked—in front of crowds of people. Among the crowds, too, are those who are not content just to gawk, but who mock Jesus in his pain.
 - a. What are the common threads among their jeers? (vv. 35, 37, 39)

 - b. Why do you think these jeers would be particularly vicious and painful for Jesus?

 - c. Whose voice do the mockers seem to be echoing? (4:3, 9–11;  Mt. 16:21–23)

 - d. Jesus could have saved himself. Why doesn't he? (Jn. 6:38; Eph. 2:1–5; Titus 3:3–7)

What does he do instead? (Lk. 23:46; 1 Pet. 2:23)

6. It was common practice for the executing authorities to post a notice informing the public of the condemned person's crime.
 - a. According to the notice posted on the cross, what is Jesus' "crime"? (v. 38)

 - b. The inscription about Jesus turned out to be controversial. Read John 19:19–22. What are both Pilate and the Jewish leaders missing?

