

### 1 summary

This passage is rich with some of the dramatic details related to the final hours of Jesus' life. After his scourging, and a night which would have afforded little sleep, Jesus is too weak to carry his own cross and Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for him. The crucifixion of Jesus took place at a location known as the "Skull." "In Aramaic, the name is "Golgotha"; in Latin, calvaria, which is why we refer to this site as Calvary.<sup>1</sup>

Jesus is crucified between two criminals and the sun "failed" ("ceased") to produce light for 3 hours (noon-3 pm) showing God's judgment was present. After Christ's death the curtain of the temple was torn from top to bottom (Mt 27:51) showing that access to God was now available. The people who had been mocking Jesus on the cross now go home beating their breasts as they apparently realized they had helped to crucify the Messiah and there was nothing they could do to change it!

Finally, Joseph, a secret disciple of Jesus (John 19:38) requests to take the body of Jesus from the cross and bury him in a tomb of honor instead of being cast into a grave of dishonor with the other criminals.

### 2 questions & suggestions

1. Read through this passage and list all of the main characters that you see. What do you notice about them? (rulers-scoffed, soldiers-mocked, 1 criminal-mocked, 1 criminal- believed, centurion-realizes Jesus is innocent, crowds-beat their breasts, women-watched, Joseph-buried Jesus)
2. If you were present as all these events took place, what do you think would have been your response? Why?
3. What impresses you as you think about Jesus suffering on the cross and yet still saving one of the criminals?
4. What most impacted you about Frank's discussion of forgiveness? Why?
5. Take 3-5 minutes of silence for each person to reflect on the cross and what Christ has done for them personally. Afterward, ask for people to share what the Lord brought to their mind.
6. Spend time in prayer as a group thanking Jesus for dying for us.

<sup>1</sup> Darrell L. Bock, Luke, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 595.