

Final Days: What Jesus' Final Days Teach Us About Life
"In Spite of Life Faith"
Luke 23:32-46
March 25, 2018 / Pastor Shawn

**Disappointment with life easily becomes
disappointment with God.**

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?" Luke 23:32-40

**This man has not drawn conclusions about God based on
the way life and others have treated him.**

⁴¹ "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Luke 23:41

**If an innocent man who suffers like a guilty man can
maintain faith in God, how much more a guilty man for
whom there is some justification for his suffering.**

⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father,

into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. Luke 23:42-46

God can be trusted with your experience.

God is not your life. God sent Jesus to bring you life.

Discussion Questions

1. What was your "A-Ha" from Sunday's message? Why did this stick out to you?
2. In what ways do you equate disappointment with life to disappointment with God? Be specific. Be honest.
3. What attitudes do you see in the crowd? the rulers? the criminals? the soldiers? in Jesus?
4. Who in this story do you identify with most? With least? Why?
5. What aspects of the gospel message do you see in verses 40-43?
6. What is the meaning of darkness in verse 44? What is the meaning of the torn curtain in verse 45 (see also Hebrews 9:11-14, 25-28)? What is the meaning of Jesus' prayer (see Psalm 31:5)?
7. When did the meaning of the death of Jesus begin to make sense to you? How would you explain the necessity of the crucifixion to a non-Christian friend?
8. What hope does Jesus' death give you?