



The Gospel of Luke – The Cross & the Criminals

Date: Sunday 12th August 2018

Speakers: Fred O'Loughlin, Ruth Page

Key Verses: Luke 8:1-3, Luke 10:38-42

Summary

- Jesus defies expectations of what His kingdom should look like. Rather than coming with a gospel that just solves our latest issue, He came to defeat the greatest enemies. Now His kingdom brings us forgiveness from our sin.
- Jesus' response to the criminal in his crucifixion expresses the heart of His good news: By dying on the cross Jesus made it possible for all people at all times to be saved, when they accept who He is and their need of Him, and turn to Him for help.

Small Group Questions

- What might it have been like to be one of the onlookers to the cross, who do you most identify with in this passage?
- What are the main contrasts between the two criminals and how they encounter Jesus on the cross? Which do you most relate to and why?
- Tim Mackie says that many of us miss the freedom of the cross because we either live as if the cross wasn't necessary (and that our sins are not that bad), or as if the cross is really in our face condemning us (and that our sins are too bad to be forgiven). Do you relate to this? What is preventing you from experiencing the freedom the cross brings?

- The word “Sin” is used much less in western culture today than it once was. Do you think it is generally difficult to talk about sin? Why / Why not? And what affect do you think this has on our faith?
- How much does the cross affect every part of your life? (Work, Family, Friendships, Church, Difficult times, Good times, etc) Does it appear in some places more than others? Why is this?

To ponder or pray about this week...

- Consider finding time to listen to Tim Mackie’s talk on the finished work of the cross:
Jesus’ Final Words: <https://thebibleproject.com/podcast/jesus-final-words/>
- Pray that you will be able to share Jesus’ good news with someone this week.