

Imperfect #10
Mirror of the Heart

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 23:26-43

Discussion Questions

1. When do you find it difficult to conceal what is in your heart? Why? Share with the group.
2. The mirror of a man's heart is his action. In other words, what a man does is an indication of what is in his heart. Read Luke 23:26-43. This passage tells us the actions of Jesus as He was led to death on the cross, which gives us very clear ideas on what was in His heart at that moment. First, He was thinking of others until the end (v. 26-31). Condemned to die on the cross after severe beating and enduring a long evening of trials, and carrying the cross that every condemned person to crucifixion must bear the entire way were just too much for Jesus' humanity. Who was Simon of Cyrene? What did the soldier make him do (v. 26)? Why was a large crowd following Jesus (v.27)? How did Jesus respond to the women who were mourning for Him (v. 28-31)? What was Jesus thinking of them on His way to die? Share what possible thoughts would cross your mind if you were accused unfairly and charged with a crime that you never committed. Would you still be thinking about others at that moment?
3. Second, Jesus was thinking of forgiving until the end (v.32-38). There were two others, who were real criminals, with Him to be put to death. What other horrible things did the people do to Jesus while He was nailed on the cross? What did Jesus say on the cross that reveals His character (v.34)? What does it tell you about Jesus' capacity to forgive? Discuss how a normal person would usually react to unfairness from others. What would

it take for you to forgive someone who had hurt you quite deeply? Is it possible to do so? How?

4. Third, Jesus was saving others until the end (v.39-43). If in an hour of death and a person still claim his own righteousness and is not afraid of death, then that person won't believe at all. How did the first criminal react to Jesus? What did he demand Jesus to do (v.39)? In contrast, what appeal did the other criminal on the cross make of Jesus (v.40-41)? What was Jesus' reaction to the criminal's plea? That common criminal was the last person to come to know Christ as His Savior before Jesus died. How is his salvation so fitting to Jesus' only purpose for coming to earth? How does Jesus' acceptance of the repentant criminal tell us about man's salvation and transformation?

Walk

Knowing Jesus thoughts in His last moment on earth through His actions, forgiveness and saving of others until His last breath give us glimpses of God's love for us. Why did Jesus decide on not saving Himself from His pain and misery on the cross? How can you thank God for His sufferings in order to give you the gift of salvation?

Worship & Prayer

Our gracious and loving Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunity to know You through Your Son the Lord Jesus Christ who gave us a perfect image of what God's heart is. We thank You that we no longer have to guess the content of God's heart as it has already been lived out by our Saviour Jesus - a heart of love, grace, and mercy. Empower us to emulate Him - to still love you and our fellow believers even in the midst of suffering and difficulty. Cause us to be gracious especially to those who seem undeserving and to those who we simply overlook. Fill our hearts with the love of Jesus until it overflows to our relationships, our behavior, our words, and our lifestyles - that our actions may be a witness to all those who have never experienced the profound love of Jesus in their lives. May we be the Jesus that other people have never encountered. In Jesus' Name, Amen.