

Imperfect #11

Put Your Life on the Line

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 23:44-56

Discussion Questions

1. What is the greatest thing you have ever given up for someone else?
2. Read Luke 23:44-56. As Jesus hung on the cross, He took upon Himself all the sins of the world. Because of this He was separated from God the Father in heaven who in His holiness could not have anything to do with sin, especially sin of that magnitude. Have you ever wondered who killed Jesus? Why could no one kill Him? If no one could kill Him, who initiated His death (v. 46)? Why did Jesus do it? How does it affect you that you, who because of your sins deserve to die, were saved by Jesus' voluntary death on the cross?
3. What uncommon occurrence took place while Jesus hung on the cross, and what did it signify (v. 44-45)? If you were there to witness the death of Christ, how would you have responded? Luke recorded four different responses of different people to Jesus' death. See how can you identify with these responses in your own life:
 - a. *Response #1: Acknowledge.* The first person to respond to Jesus' death was the centurion. Who was he? What did he acknowledge about Jesus (v. 47)? Is acknowledgement of Jesus being a righteous man sufficient to change a person and be transformed? Discuss why acknowledgement, though it may be a good thing, is insufficient to impact one's life?
 - b. *Response #2: Sympathize (v. 48).* How did a group of people who had gathered to witness Jesus' crucifixion react to His death? What did they do after sympathizing with Jesus? Why is sympathy, or just

feeling sorry, insufficient as a response to Jesus' death? When you hear an inspiring story, or of a compelling story of someone needing help, how do you respond? Why would plain sympathy be an insufficient response to what Christ did on the cross?

- c. *Response #3: Observe (v. 49).* How did all those who knew Jesus react to His death? How does their reaction remind you of the actions of many Christians today? Discuss how you can become involved in the spiritual lives of those around you, instead of just being an observer. Have you ever asked a family member what they had learned at church? Or have you ever shared with them what part of the message you heard in church specifically blessed you?
- d. *Response #4: Transformation to action (v. 50-53).* Who was Joseph of Arimathea? How did he put his life on the line in relation to Jesus? Describe how he took care of Jesus' dead body. Share what you can learn from his example. How does your transformed life reflect in your action?

Walk

In response to His death, Jesus wants your changed life. He died so that you may live. Anything short of transformation of your heart is an inadequate response to Jesus Christ's death on the cross. As you commemorate Holy Week and Easter, how would you show your appreciation for what Jesus did? What risks might you have to take as you live for the Lord? Are you willing to take those risks and put your life on the line for Christ's sake?

Worship & Prayer

Father, I praise and thank You for Your Word that reminds me of Christ's sacrifice. His gift of grace was given to me for free, but paid for with His precious blood on the cross. Forgive me for the many times I took that for granted, for the many times I simply acknowledged, sympathized, or observed without effecting a changed life. Through the Holy Spirit you have begun to work in my heart. Through Christ You gave me the capability to live a changed life. Give me the courage and the guidance to use that ability to step out in faith, to take risks in living in obedience to Your will. I may lose some things, but my desire is to gain Your favor, Father. May Your will be done in my life, and may You be pleased in how I live it starting today. I ask these in Jesus' name. Amen.