

FULFILLED

Study 18 - Luke 22:39-23:49

1. What possible temptations (v40, 46) might Jesus and his disciples be facing that required earnest prayer?
2. Everything in Luke's gospel has been leading to the cross. How does Jesus feel about what lies ahead for him? Why (hint: read Jeremiah 25:15-29)?
3. If Jesus is so filled with dread about his death, why doesn't he just avoid it? What does God's answer to Jesus' prayer tell us about his purposes?
4. Why is Peter's denial of Jesus (22:54-62) one of the saddest moments in Luke? In what ways are we sometimes tempted to do the same?
5. What are the various accusations brought against Jesus (22:66-23:3)? Are any of them true? Which aren't true?
6. What is Pilate's assessment? What does this tell us about Jesus' death?
7. What do you think Jesus is talking about in 23:28-31? (Hint: look back at 19:41-44 and 20:13-16) Why would God allow something like this to happen to the Jews?

8. What is Jesus' response to the injustice and violence that he experiences here? What did his executioners "not know"?

9. How does Jesus' treatment of those who oppose him challenge our own response when we face opposition for following him?

10. The crowds, the authorities and one of the other criminals maintain that Jesus should be able to save himself if he is who he claims to be. Are they right or wrong? Why?

11. What does the experience of the second criminal (23:40-43) tell us about who can be saved and how we are saved?

12. What signs accompany Jesus' death and what do each of them tell us?

13. From what we have seen in Luke so far, how does the tearing of the temple curtain symbolise the fulfilment of what Jesus has come to do (see e.g. 1:68-79; 15:1-24; 19:10)?

14. Look again at the scene at the cross (23:35-49). What responses do you see? How do these reflect the different responses we see to Jesus today?