

Thieves Beside Jesus

Read: Luke 23:32-43

Open:

1. Have you ever been punished for something that you didn't do?
How did that feel?

Dig:

1. Why would the Romans have treated Jesus as a common criminal just like the thieves?
2. What symbolism would you find in the fact that the criminals were placed on the right and left hand sides of Jesus? (Mark 10:35-39)
What might this say about the cost of being a follower of Jesus?
3. What attitudes and motives do you see in the crowd in the rulers?
The thieves? The soldiers? The sign? In Jesus?
4. What aspects of the gospel message do you see in verses 40-43?

Reflect:

1. How do you view crucifixion: Necessary evil? Common Tragedy?
Cruel and unusual punishment? Sacrifice for sin? Triumph over injustice? Why?
2. How would you explain the necessity of the crucifixion to a non-Christian friend?
3. What hope does Christ's death give you?
4. Who in this story do you identify with the most? The least? Why?
5. What impresses you about Jesus here?