

CONVERSATION GUIDE

1. Take 5-10 minutes to discuss last week’s **The Mission of the Church** sermon.
2. Jesus sent out disciples by twos. Does this have any relevance for us?

After Peter confesses Jesus as the Messiah, Jesus predicts his death and resurrection.

READ

Luke 9:20-22; 23:44-49

DISCUSS and REFLECT

Luke 9:20-22

For the first time, Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ of God (Messiah). Then Jesus first explicitly¹ says that He would suffer and be rejected by Jewish religious leaders, be killed, and on the third day be raised to life. Jesus knows His Father’s plans.

Why did Jesus strictly warn the disciples not to tell this to anyone?

Luke 23:44-49

The darkness underscores the significance of Jesus death, and has been interpreted as an omen of God’s judgment on the leaders of Israel.² Jesus’ death and the rending of the Temple veil illustrate that through His death, Jesus opened the way to our direct relationship with the Lord (Heb 10:20)³. A commentator viewed tearing the Temple veil as God leaving the Temple to accomplish his purposes by other means.⁴

Unlike the accounts of Matthew and Mark, Luke does not describe the anguished cry of Jesus uttered before his last words. Only Luke includes Jesus’ last words before dying. After calling out in a loud voice, Jesus’ says (Ps 31:5) “Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit.”

What do we learn about Jesus from his last words?

Luke 23:46: When he (Jesus) had said this, he breathed out his last. Luke focuses our attention on

¹ *The NIV Study Bible*. Zondervan, 1985.

² *The New Interpreter’s Bible Vol IX Luke, John*.

³ *NIV Study Bible*

⁴ Green, Joel B. *The Gospel of Luke*. Wm B. Eerdmans, 1997.

the knowledge and control Jesus had over his death.

Luke describes witnesses to Jesus’ death⁵:

1. Centurion⁶: Roman official in charge of the crucifixion.⁷

What is the significance of the hardened centurion’s response?

How do you think the centurion’s response affect the original audience?

What kind of a witness is the centurion?

2. All the people who had gathered to witness this sight: This likely includes the crowd who supported the Jewish leaders demanding the crucifixion of Jesus. The responses of beating their breasts exhibit grief or contrition.

After witnessing the crucifixion, how do you think the people responded to the Jewish leaders?

What kind of witnesses are these people?

After witnessing the crucifixion, how do you think the people responded to hearing the gospel?

3. All those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee:

Who do you think is included in this group?

What is the significance of Luke specifically mentioning the women?

Why do you think these people stood at a distance?

What kind of witnesses are these people?

APPLY

How are the responses of the witnesses to the crucifixion important today?

How do these responses of the witnesses affect you or change your thinking?

⁵ *New Interpreter’s Bible*

⁶ Like Pilate and Herod, the centurion asserts the innocence of Jesus. *Ibid*.

⁷ *NIV Study Bible*