

Small Group Study Questions

Sermon: Life and Judgment

Passages: Luke 23:27-47

Context:

Jesus remained in control of every event during the last week of his earthly life, even though the religious leaders and crowds believed he was powerless. Even as Jesus felt the pain of his mistreatment from the political trials and punishment from the soldiers, a number of people interacted with Jesus on his way to the cross. Still feeling compassion for people as he stumbled along the Via Dolorosa towards Golgotha, Jesus readily interacted with these people. From their interactions, we learn about the misperceptions of people concerning Jesus and true perceptions from Jesus.

Questions:

1. How does the idea of being held accountable for our actions impact the way we live our daily lives? How might our perceptions about accountability impact us poorly? How might our perceptions impact us in a healthy way?
2. In Luke 23:27-47, we see four different responses to Jesus on the cross—one from the Daughters of Jerusalem, one from the crowds who mock Jesus, one from a thief on the cross, and another from a centurion. In what ways do we see these same responses in today's world? In what ways were these responses missing something from the reality and truth about Jesus' person and work? In what ways do we learn more about the truth that Jesus wants people to know about his work?
3. How does this passage demonstrate Jesus' innocence as someone who suffered unjustly? At the same time, how does this passage illustrate the idea of judgment and accountability to God? What does the passage teach about the judgment of God that is necessary for all people?
4. What are some practical ways we can ensure that we are consciously living in a way that aligns with God's standards of judgment and accountability?
5. John 16 tells us that the Holy Spirit convicts the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment. How does the promise of the gospel include an understanding of judgment and accountability to God? Can you explain to a high school student the inclusion of judgment in the gospel?
6. Explain how Christ's willingness to take our judgment onto himself helps us understand grace better and deeper.