

THE REALLY GOOD LIFE!

The Life of Christ Series

Gospel of Luke

The King on the Cross

Luke 23:26-43

²⁶ Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear *it* after Jesus. ²⁷ And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. ²⁸ But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed *are* the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' ³⁰ Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" ' ³¹ For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?" ³² There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. ³³ And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. ³⁵ And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." ³⁸ And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: ³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." ⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Notes:

- Simon a Cyrenian (Mark 15:21)
- Isaiah 52:14

1. In v. 26, Simon helped Jesus carried His cross. Figuratively, what does it mean to "carry your cross"? Have you ever had to carry someone else's cross and why? How did you manage?
2. In v. 27-30, there are people mourning for Him (Jesus). Why did Jesus respond that way?
3. Give additional examples of *green wood* and *dry wood*?
4. Jesus said, "Father forgive them for they don't know what they do?" What is your attitude and response when people hurt you?
5. Have you ever experienced the fellowship of His suffering in being mocked for your faith in Jesus, and how did that affect you?
6. What is the significance of the thief saying, "'Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom' and Jesus' response to him? What does it take to be with Him in Paradise?