

## “Golgotha’s Tree” – Sermon Notes

March 17, 2024 – Luke 23:32-43 – series: Five Trees

### Why does the cross matter?

1. Jesus’ death shows the U\_\_\_\_\_ of sin. (Psalm 53:3)
2. Jesus S\_\_\_\_\_ for all our sake. (1 Peter 3:18)
3. God R\_\_\_\_\_ us through Jesus’ sacrifice. (2 Corinthians 5:19a)

Jesus died so we could be forgiven and made N\_\_\_\_\_!

### Questions for reflection:

- Do I need God’s forgiveness?
- Is Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross central to my life?

*“Stretch out your arms toward the cross, so that the crucified Lord may stretch out his arms toward you.” (Ephrem the Syrian)*

## Sunday Seconds: “Golgotha’s Tree”

*(for small group discussion or personal reflection)*

Luke 23:32-43 – March 17, 2024

1. When you see a cross in someone’s jewelry, what do you think?
2. “They were raging, but he was praying. They were saying to Pilate ‘Crucify,’ but he was crying out, ‘Father, forgive.’ He was hanging from the cruel nails, but he did not lose his gentleness... It was for his enemies that he shed his blood, but by his blood he converted his enemies.” (Augustine)  
What does this say to you about Jesus’ forgiveness?
3. Our scripture has obvious correlations with Isaiah 53:12. What similarities and differences do you see between the two?
4. In Luke 9:22-24, Jesus relates his crucifixion to our daily life as disciples. Is this what Americans generally think of as the Christian life? What differences do you see and how do you intend to live it?
5. Another way to say it is that Jesus’ penultimate (final, greatest) choice is to either save himself or save others. This ultimate choice becomes ours, in a sense. What will our lives be about? Perhaps this was Jesus’ first and only choice: read John 4:34 & Luke 19:10.
6. The cross is a cross-road for human decision. It has always gotten attention and needs our continual attention. What Jesus did for us is the center-point of human salvation history and real life change. What do you need from Jesus this week?

➔ This week, pray for each other’s burdens.

## “Golgotha’s Tree” – Sermon Notes

March 17, 2024 – Luke 23:32-43 – series: Five Trees

### Why does the cross matter?

1. Jesus’ death shows the U\_\_\_\_\_ of sin. (Psalm 53:3)
2. Jesus S\_\_\_\_\_ for all our sake. (1 Peter 3:18)
3. God R\_\_\_\_\_ us through Jesus’ sacrifice. (2 Corinthians 5:19a)

Jesus died so we could be forgiven and made N\_\_\_\_\_!

### Questions for reflection:

- Do I need God’s forgiveness?
- Is Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross central to my life?

*“Stretch out your arms toward the cross, so that the crucified Lord may stretch out his arms toward you.” (Ephrem the Syrian)*

## Sunday Seconds: “Golgotha’s Tree”

*(for small group discussion or personal reflection)*

Luke 23:32-43 – March 17, 2024

1. When you see a cross in someone’s jewelry, what do you think?
2. “They were raging, but he was praying. They were saying to Pilate ‘Crucify,’ but he was crying out, ‘Father, forgive.’ He was hanging from the cruel nails, but he did not lose his gentleness... It was for his enemies that he shed his blood, but by his blood he converted his enemies.” (Augustine)  
What does this say to you about Jesus’ forgiveness?
3. Our scripture has obvious correlations with Isaiah 53:12. What similarities and differences do you see between the two?
4. In Luke 9:22-24, Jesus relates his crucifixion to our daily life as disciples. Is this what Americans generally think of as the Christian life? What differences do you see and how do you intend to live it?
5. Another way to say it is that Jesus’ penultimate (final, greatest) choice is to either save himself or save others. This ultimate choice becomes ours, in a sense. What will our lives be about? Perhaps this was Jesus’ first and only choice: read John 4:34 & Luke 19:10.
6. The cross is a cross-road for human decision. It has always gotten attention and needs our continual attention. What Jesus did for us is the center-point of human salvation history and real life change. What do you need from Jesus this week?

➔ This week, pray for each other’s burdens.