



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

(Group leaders pick 4-5 questions to discuss as time permits)

How do you define legacy? And in what ways have you attempted to develop your own legacy?

- What about this interaction between Jesus and the thief seems important to you?
- Does Jesus' immediate acceptance of this thief make you uncomfortable?
- How does this encounter affect your understanding of God's expansive grace?
- In what ways would the story change without the mocking thief?
- Read 2 Cor 5:14-21. How do you understand the ministry of reconciliation? What role do you play in that ministry?
- A lot of emphasis is placed on the phrase "Today you will be with me in paradise" Why do we have a tendency to focus so much energy there? What is it that makes us so concerned about the next life?
- Why would it be important to understand God's kingdom as both present and future? Does this idea influence your life? Should it?
- Consider each point & verses found in the outline and ask the following questions of the group:
 1. How are you encouraged by this?
 2. How does this challenge you personally?
 3. In what ways do you disagree?



Guide - VANTAGE POINT: The Thief

People can witness the same event and see it differently. A lot of factors can contribute to those differences: eyesight, hearing, personal bias, vantage point. Over the centuries, people have had different perspectives on the death and resurrection of Jesus. But, what about the differences of those that were there, the eye witnesses?

Vantage Point looks at those different perspectives of Jesus and the Easter story through the lens of four different people: Pilate, a Thief, Jesus, and Thomas. In the series we'll pose the questions: What difference did their vantage point make in their perspective of the resurrection? And, how are their perspectives like ours?

OUTLINE & SCRIPTURE

The Thief

Luke 23:32-39

32 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. 35 And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine 37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38 There was also an inscription over him,

"This is the King of the Jews."

39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

1. Jesus came for the sinners

- Lk 7:18-35, Lk 15, Mark 2:13-17

2. Aren't you the Christ?

- Lk 9:28-36, Lk 23:39, Lk 24:1-8, Mark 8:27-30,

3. Remember me



- John 14:1-3, Lk 17:20-21, Rev 19:11-16

4. Our legacy is found in Jesus

**- 2 Cor 5:14-21, 2 Cor 3:6, Hebrews 11-12:1, Colossians 4:2-6, Romans 12:1-2- 2
Cor 5:14-21, 2 Cor 3:6, Hebrews 11-12:1, Colossians 4:2-6, Romans 12:1-2**