

# Jesus on the Cross

Even as he hung dying on the cross, Jesus showed compassion and mercy when he offered words of salvation to a crucified thief and established a new, spiritual family. Witness the eleventh and twelfth Stations of the Cross, one of the shortest prayers in the Bible, and learn what these stations show about the mercy and belonging that God has for us today.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What do you think the thief meant by “remember” when he asked Jesus to remember him?
- How do you define “family”?



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [Jesus on the Cross](#)

**READ** [Luke 23:39-43](#), [John 19:25-27](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- As hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney concluded their reflection on Jesus’ interaction with the thief on the cross, Scott said, “When that confession meets the crucified king, their story is not over; there is a new beginning with Jesus.” For whom does this give you hope?
- Jesus cared for his mother, even from the cross, and Darrell noted that this offers us assurance “that no one who stays near Jesus in costly moments stands alone.” How have you experienced this in your life? Who is in your spiritual family? Who has shown you God’s care? How have you been a spiritual family to someone else through your care?
- The twelfth Station of the Cross reshaped our definition of family. Darrell noted that Paul also wrote about the effect of Jesus’ work on the cross on our communities in [Ephesians 2:13-19](#), saying, “Paul is talking about this new humanity...how foreigners and strangers become fellow citizens...he is rearranging what we consider to be those lines of relationship...Christ makes them all members of one household.” How does this challenge us still today?
- In what ways do you think studying the Stations of the Cross during Lent might benefit your discipleship practice all year long?

**RELATED PASSAGES** for further study

[Mark 1:14-15](#), [2 Corinthians 12:1-4](#), [Revelation 2:7](#), [Luke 2:25-35](#), [John 2:1-11](#), [Matthew 12:46-50](#), [Hebrews 7:24-25](#), [Ephesians 2:13-19](#)

## CONCLUSION

At the eleventh and twelfth Stations of the Cross, we encounter a Savior who meets guilt with mercy and loneliness with family. Scott and Darrell summarized three lessons we learned at these stations and observed that Lenten practices become a pattern of discipleship throughout the year:

1. No person's story is beyond the reach of mercy.
2. No believer stands alone in the family of God.
3. Life under the cross shapes how we treat the vulnerable.

Close your time of reflection with the two simple prayers Darrell drew from these stations and shared at the close of the episode: 1) Lord Jesus, remember me and remember those whom I am tempted to write off, and 2) Lord Jesus, show me whom you are *giving me to*, and who you are *giving to me*.

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