

Pastor Roy's Sermon on Luke 23:26-56 (September 20, 2026)

—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—

1. Simon of Cyrene was forced, not asked, to carry the cross of Jesus -- in what ways has God placed unexpected burdens on your shoulders that you later recognized as a privilege to bear for His purposes?
2. Jesus told the mourning women of Jerusalem to weep for themselves rather than for Him, revealing that His path to the cross was one of willing sacrifice rather than tragedy -- how does understanding the voluntary nature of Christ's suffering change the way you personally receive the gift of salvation?
3. The pastor points out that silence in the face of evil effectively takes the side of the enemy, drawing from Matthew 10:32-33 and the passive crowd at Calvary -- in what areas of your life might your silence be communicating something you do not actually believe?
4. One criminal mocked Jesus while the other rebuked his companion and cried out for mercy, and both men were in the same desperate, dying condition -- what do you think made the difference in how each man responded to Christ in his final moments?
5. Jesus prayed from the cross that the Father would forgive those who were in the very act of crucifying Him -- how does this radical, immediate forgiveness challenge the limits you place on your own willingness to forgive those who have wronged you?
6. The veil of the Temple was torn from top to bottom at the moment of Christ's death, signifying that God Himself was removing the barrier between Himself and humanity -- what barriers, whether personal, religious, or cultural, might you be maintaining that God has already torn down?
7. A Roman centurion, a man who participated in the crucifixion, was moved to glorify God and declare Jesus innocent when he witnessed the events surrounding His death -- what does it say about the power of Christ's sacrifice that it could reach even the heart of one of His executioners?
8. Joseph of Arimathea was a secret disciple who held a position of influence among the very leaders who condemned Jesus, yet he stepped forward boldly at the most dangerous moment -- what would it look like for you to move from quiet, private faith to open, courageous conviction?
9. The women who followed Jesus faithfully noted the location of the tomb with the intention of returning to complete the burial, unaware that their spices would not be needed -- how does this detail remind you that God is often working far beyond the limits of what His most devoted followers can see or expect?