

Introduction:

Text: Matthew 27:27-31, 33, 35-44

1. The two robbers' profile
2. The reason for Jesus' crucifixion between two robbers

A. Jesus' PASSION: His Suffering on the Cross

1. Jesus' physical suffering
2. Jesus' psychological suffering

B. Jesus' PULPIT: His Seven Sayings on the Cross

1st Saying, *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"*
(Luke 23:34).

2nd Saying *"Today, you will be with me in Paradise"* (Luke 23:43).

3rd Saying, *"Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple,*
"here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took
her into his home (John 19:25-27).

4th Saying, *"My God, my God why have you forsaken Me?"* (Mark 15:34)

5th Saying, *"I am thirsty"* (John 19:28).

6th Saying: *"It is finished"* (John 19:30).

Last Saying, *"Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit"* (Luke 23:46).

Reflections:

1. With Jesus' intense suffering on the cross for us, let us respond to His call to self-denial and self-sacrifice, as His followers, *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?"* (Mark 8:34-36)

2. Let us search our hearts with these questions:
 - a. Do I show self-denial and self-sacrifice in how and where I spend my God-given talents, time, energy, and resources?
 - b. Can I honestly declare myself a committed follower of Christ, the way I live now?
 - c. Have I given my all for Jesus, as He had given His all for me on the cross?

TABLETALK STARTERS

READ: Matthew 27:27-44; Isaiah 53:4-5; Mark 8:34-36

1. What have you learned about the two robbers from last Sunday's sermon that applies to your life today?
 - a. Any warning?
 - b. Any encouragement?
2. What insight/s do you now have about Jesus' crucifixion between two robbers?
3. What insight/s from Jesus' Seven Sayings on the cross lighted up your life? Refer to the sermon outline for the Seven Sayings of Jesus.
4. Go over The Tale of Two Robbers under Pastor's Corner, and pick a point for discussion, personal application, and prayer.

PRAY