

THE STORY



THE HOUR OF DARKNESS

John 13 & Luke 22-23

THE DARKEST NIGHT (Luke 23:26-31)

*"As soon as Judas had taken the bread,
he went out. **And it was night.**"*

John 13:30

*"But this is your hour – **when darkness reigns.**"*

Luke 22:53

Jesus was already _____ before
walking the road to the cross.

THE DARKEST DAY (Luke 23:32-43)

"They crucified him..." (Luke 23:33)

- Beaten and whipped beforehand
- Forced to carry his own instrument of torture
- Nailed to wooden beams
- Pushing up on nails through major nerves just to take a breath
- Scraping torn flesh against rugged wood with every breath
- Ultimately, it's a slow death of asphyxiation

The English word *excruciating* comes from crucifixion, meaning "_____ of the _____."

*"It was now about noon, and **darkness** came over
the whole land until three in the afternoon, for
the sun stopped shining."*

Luke 23:44-45

AN UNFAIR TRADE

The cross is the where God's _____ and
_____ meet.

Jesus took our _____ and gave us his
_____ instead (substitutionary atonement).

*"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,
so that in him we might become the righteousness
of God."*

II Corinthians 5:21

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Sermon on October 16, 2022
The Hour of Darkness

Getting to Know Me –

1. Were you afraid of the dark as a child?
2. Have you ever been in complete darkness? If so, what was that like?

Digging Deeper

1. What new insight or information did you learn about Jesus's final hours from reading chapter 26 in *The Story* or hearing Pastor Phil's sermon this Sunday?
2. Read John 12:32-36 and 44-46. What does it mean to walk in darkness? What happens to us when we believe in Jesus?
3. Luke 23:44-47 and Matthew 27:45-46 note that the sun stopped shining during Jesus final hours on the cross. What else happened? How is this significant?
4. Take turns reading John 17:1-26. As you read and/or hear Jesus's final prayer, what do you see as the main points?

5. The crucifixion was a gruesome act. Pastor Phil described the cross as "where God's love and justice meet." What does the cross tell us about God's view of sin?
6. Read II Corinthians 5:21. In what ways did Jesus become the substitute for you on the cross? What did he take from you and what did he give to you?
7. How does a deeper understanding of what Christ endured on the cross affect your faith?

Where Do I Go from Here?

Jesus was the ultimate victor over sin and death. He demonstrated his love on the cross while enduring the most *excruciating* of all deaths.

1. If you knew you were on your deathbed, what would you want to share with those you love? What legacy do you want to leave for your family?
2. What response do you have for what Jesus did on the cross?

Prayer

Father God, we cannot comprehend the choice Jesus made to die on our behalf so that we can live with you forever. We glorify your name Father God and praise you for your mercy and justice. Forgive us for those times we forget your precious gift and act out of our human nature. We pray for boldness and kindness to be present in our lives as we declare your love to others. Help us to have eyes to see opportunities to help others know you. Daily give us a spirit of power and love and self-control to be the best witnesses for you. Amen.

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*"As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. **And it was night.**"*

John 13:30

*"But this is your hour – **when darkness reigns.**"*

Luke 22:53

Jesus was already half dead before walking the road to the cross.

THE DARKEST DAY (Luke 23:32-43)

"They crucified him..." (Luke 23:33)

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"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

II Corinthians 5:21