

Series: *God Loves People*: God loves people, that's the profound truth at the heart of our series, and it's the truth at the very heart of the Gospel. Reports show crime cannot be traced to environment, poverty, or oppression but to people making wrong moral choices. That lack of proper moral training by parents has a direct correlation to crime, especially to children in their formative years. But when parents and their offspring fail, Jesus can step in to rescue.

Jesus Loves Criminals

Luke 23:32-43

1. Jesus and the Company of Criminals

A. Both of them Reviled (Matthew 27:44; Mark 15:32)

B. One of them Recanted (Luke 23:39-42)

2. Jesus and the Converted Criminal

A. The Promise made to this Criminal (Luke 23:43)

B. The Path taken by this Criminal (Luke 23:40-43)

- He confessed his guilt.
- He trusted Christ.
- He made it personal.
- He made it public.

LifeGroup Questions:

BEGIN IT (5min) – time praising the Lord & opening prayer.

OPEN IT (10min) – When have you agreed to do something that you didn't look forward to doing?

EXPLORE IT (60min) – Read Luke 23:32-43. Now review Sunday's sermon outline together allowing for questions, comments and contributing thoughts.

1. In vv.35-39 how was Jesus treated by others while He was hanging on the cross?
2. Why didn't both criminals plead for mercy from Jesus?
3. What prevents many people from turning to Jesus?
4. What did Jesus' words to the repentant criminal reveal about conversion (salvation)?
5. In what way are we all like the criminals on the cross?

APPLY IT (15min) - What have you learn from the actions of the repentant criminal?