

# “Close Encounters”

## 7 Encounters with Jesus in Luke 23



### 1. Read Luke 19:28-48; 22:63-23:56; 1 Peter 2:23

- a. Life, as we all know, is filled with good times and hard times. What have been the three worst days of your life, and why?
  
- b. Think about what you know of Christ's last days on earth. What does it mean to you personally that Christ suffered so much for you? Read 1 Peter 5:7 and Hebrews 4:15-16.
  
- c. In Luke's crucifixion account (23:26-46), what does Jesus say and do? List His actions.
  
- d. What made Christ's experience in the garden of Gethsemane so excruciating (Luke 22:39-46)?

### 2. Seven Encounters with Jesus in Luke 23

Observe and ponder each encounter. Who is Jesus interacting with? What does the person say/do? What does Jesus say/do? How are you like the person in Jesus' encounter? Is there anything in the person Jesus encounters that reminds you of yourself and that you'd like to change? How do you see God's/Christ's mercy, grace, or love in each encounter? List one lesson learned from each encounter that causes you to praise and thank God.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_: the Roman Governor of Judea; Luke 23:1-25; Acts 3:13; 4:27; who presided over Jesus' trial; later committed suicide.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ Antipas; Luke 23:8-12; 4 B.C. – A.D. 39; family dynasty appointed to govern Jewish Palestine under Roman rule; part Jewish, part Samaritan; Tetrarch over Galilee and Perea; beheaded John the Baptist; participated in Jesus' trial; mocked Jesus; put a robe on Him.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ of Cyrene; Luke 23:26; Mark 15:21; Romans 16:13; a Jew from North Africa; in Jerusalem to observe the Feasts; forced to carry Jesus' cross to Golgotha; reported to have accepted Christ as Savior.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ of Jerusalem; Luke 23:27-31; probably hired to mourn.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ crucified next to Jesus; Luke 23:32-43; Isaiah 53:12; brazen robber and probably a murderer; at first mocking Jesus, but then truly believes and is saved.
- f. The Heavenly \_\_\_\_\_; Luke 23:34, 44-49; Matthew 27:46; John 19:30; accepted the death of His only Son, Jesus Christ, as atoning payment for sin, for those who accept it by faith.
- g. \_\_\_\_\_ of Arimathea; Luke 23:50-56; Isaiah 53:9; John 19:38; member of the Jewish Sanhedrin; voted against the plan to condemn Jesus; a rich man; a good and righteous man; a secret disciple of Jesus; asked Pilate for Jesus' dead body; together with Nicodemus, wrapped Christ's body in expensive spices and perfumes; laid Jesus in a nearby, new, unused tomb; Jewish custom placed the body on a shelf in the tomb until it had thoroughly decomposed, and then the skeleton was broken apart and placed in an ossuary and labeled.