

Chris Plekenpol

Opener



Watch: the Chris Plekenpol film.

Question: What did you like or identify with in Chris's story?
What did you not like or find confusing about Chris's story?
What did you learn about people or God from Chris's story?

Hear the Bible *Read this yourself or with a group*

As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then

"they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!'"

For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:26-43 (NIV)

Talk about the Bible

What it says

1. What did you like about this Bible story?
2. What did you not like or find confusing about this story?

What it means

3. What does this story teach about people?
4. What does this story teach about God?

Live and Tell

5. How, specifically, are you going to live out today's discussion?
6. Who will you tell? With whom will you have a spiritual conversation about today's story?

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