



## The Sacrifice of Hospitality (Luke 23:32-43)

### Welcome to the Table pt. 5

Rev. Andrea Messinger, Parish Associate

#### THE BIG IDEA

On the cross, Jesus showed the high cost and the gracious mercy of sacrificial hospitality

#### OPENING

- When was the last time you hosted someone, and everything seemed to go wrong?
- When was the last time someone did something for you that clearly cost them?

#### DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Luke 23:32-43. How does Jesus show hospitality to others from the cross?
- How does Jesus model the command in Ephesians 4:32 and the prayer he taught us in Matthew 6:12?
- Little is known about the repentant thief who died next to Jesus. Some later church traditions speculated that he had murdered people while robbing them in the desert or that he had killed his own brother. Some later church traditions ascribe to the repentant thief the name Dismas, which in English is “Dismas.”<sup>1</sup> The city of San Dimas (“Saint Dismas”) was named after this repentant thief. Discuss why people might have been so curious about this man’s story.

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<sup>1</sup>Joseph A. Fitzmyer *The Gospel According to Luke X-XXIV*, Anchor Bible Commentary (Yale University Press, 1974), p. 1509.



- The word “paradise” Jesus uses in v. 43 is a Persian word that means “garden” or “park.” It was commonly used in ancient Judaism to refer to the Garden of Eden. It was also used as a symbol for heaven, emphasizing heaven as a state of “bliss” and “rest.” How might this be good news for the repentant thief?
- Read 2 Corinthians 12:4 and Revelation 2:7. What light do these verses shed on what Jesus means by paradise here? According to Bible scholar I. Howard Marshall, “*In the present passage it represents the state of bliss which Jesus promises to the criminal directly after death.*”<sup>2</sup> What are the implications for this about what happens to Christians after they die?

## PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Spend time this week looking for opportunities to show hospitality to others when it is inconvenient or difficult for you.
- How does knowing that Jesus will welcome you into paradise when you die help you live today? Spend time reflecting on this.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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<sup>2</sup>I. Howard Marshall, *The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text* (Eerdmans, 1978), p. 872.