

Finding our limits

How can you find out how patient someone is?

How can you find out how kind someone is?

How can you find out how committed someone is to a cause?

Destructive testing

- Find something's limits by testing it until it breaks

So: How much love does Jesus have?

1

Our prayer: Father, show us your glory

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts **to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.**”

2 Corinthians 4:6

2

Love to the Core

Luke 23:26–43

bib.ly/Lu23.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts

3

Recap from Luke 23:22-25...

Jesus was on trial and was found innocent, but was condemned. For the third time *Pilate the governor* spoke to them: “Why should I condemn Jesus? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”

But with loud shouts *the chief priests, the rules, and the people* insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

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Luke 23:26-31

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, and laid the cross on him to carry behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large crowd of people followed him, including women who were mourning and lamenting him. ²⁸ But turning to them, Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and your children. ²⁹ Look, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the women without children, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ ³¹ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Unable even to carry His cross, Jesus shows compassion for others

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Luke 23:32-34

³² Two others—criminals—were also led away to be executed with him. ³³ When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided his clothes and cast lots.

While being executed, Jesus forgives those killing Him

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Luke 23:35-43

³⁵ The people stood watching, and even the leaders were scoffing: “He saved others; let him save himself if this is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him. They came offering him sour wine ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!”

³⁸ An inscription was above him: This Is the King of the Jews.

³⁹ Then one of the criminals hanging there began to yell insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

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⁴⁰ But the other answered, rebuking him: “Don’t you even fear God, since you are undergoing the same punishment? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, because we’re getting back what we deserve for the things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

While being mocked and tortured to death, Jesus gives salvation to the lowest person there!

8

Satan's goal from start to finish

- Get Jesus to use His power to save Himself
 - "Turn this stone to bread"
 - All the authority and glory of the world can be yours today
 - Prove to everyone God's love for you

Jesus was being mocked, robbed, tortured, and killed

And the central attack:

prove that you can save others by saving yourself

- Ironically, to save others, He must not save Himself

**Until His dying breath, despite every attack
Jesus refused to save Himself**

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The Big Idea

To His dying breath

Jesus loved God and loved people

with every ounce of His being

despite every attack against Him

This is how we know what love is:
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

1 John 3:16a

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Destructive Testing

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been **tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.**” *Hebrews 4:15*

- Jesus is love (for God the Father and for sinful people) to the very core of His being
- There is nothing in Him that is not love!
- Love is nothing something He puts on. It is who He is!

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The Big Idea

To His dying breath
Jesus loved God and loved people
with every ounce of His being
despite every attack against Him

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Application

Depend upon the love of Jesus

- **For salvation**
 - Hoping in our goodness is an empty hope
 - Our goodness always has a breaking point
 - “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.” *1 John 3:16a*
 - “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins” *1 John 2:2*
 - Like the criminal, we say:
 - You are righteous, I am not
 - Remember me (be merciful to me) in your Kingdom
 - And He says: “You will be with me in Paradise”

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Application

Depend upon the love of Jesus

- **For every day of life**
 - In every trial and struggle
 - In every failing
 - When we hit our breaking point
 - **His love for us is never less than it was on the cross**

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Application

Grow in loving God and loving people

- “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. **And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.**” *1 John 3:16*
- “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. **Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.**” *1 John 4:7-8*
- This is why we will never be done with confession!!
 - In this life, our love will never reach the perfections of His love

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The Big Idea

To His dying breath
 Jesus loved God and loved people
 with every ounce of His being
 despite every attack against Him

Like the criminal next to Jesus:

- Confess our failure to love: “We are punished justly”
- Declare His perfect love: “He has done nothing wrong”
- Ask for His love to us: “Remember me in your Kingdom”
- And He will welcome us into His paradise of love
 – today and forever!

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