



Your story matters.



EASTER WEEKEND 2021
**THREE CROSSES,
THREE STORIES**

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH

"Three Crosses, Three Stories"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

Your ^{REALLY} story matters.

MESSAGE NOTES

_____ of all the chapters in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) focus on Easter week.

It is and always will be the most _____ week in human and divine history.

Easter week is where Jesus' story and our story _____ ...

These 3 crosses paint a _____ picture of why Easter matters so much.

On the one hand...

1. ...The 2 Thieves Were _____

- A. Both were _____ (note [Luke 23:41a](#)).
- B. Both suffering _____ of crucifixion.
- C. Both see and _____ Jesus (note [Luke 23:32-34a, 38](#)).
- D. Both want to be saved from death.
- E. And both, _____, join the crowd in mocking and insulting Jesus (note [Matthew 27:44](#)).

We have more _____ with these 2 thieves than we may realize...

2. But...Something Starts to _____

- A. For one thief, he adds to his insults demands and _____ (note [Luke 23:39](#)). Jesus is for some people a means to an end, a back-up _____ plan, a “get out of jail free” card.
- B. The 2nd thief no longer buys the _____ about who Jesus is (note [Luke 23:40](#)). He acknowledged his _____ (note [Luke 23:41a](#)). He embraced the truth about Jesus (note [Luke 23:41b, 42](#)). And he says Yes to Jesus as Lord (note [Luke 23:42](#)).

Your story really does matter to *Jesus*:

- To the first thief, Jesus says _____ ...
- But to the second thief, Jesus says something _____ (note [Luke 23:43](#))!
- Jesus is ready to meet you today, too, to forgive and transform your life, just as He has done for thousands of Riversiders...

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).*

[MyRC.link/connect](#) or text **riverside to **94000***



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: You've been away for an extended period of time, what do you do when you get home? (Laundry and unpacking not included!)

1. In light of Pastor Tom's message, how is our beginning like that of both thieves? ([Romans 3:23](#))
2. We, like the two thieves, will all come to a crossroads and must decide what to do about Jesus. We can insult him, make demands and try to negotiate or we can acknowledge the truth of our guilt and need of salvation and experience true forgiveness and redemption. ([Romans 10:9-10, 13](#))
3. The result of our choice brings the same results as the thieves' decisions. Silence and separation for one, the promise of eternity with Jesus for the other. ([Romans 6:23](#))
4. God allows us to choose which path we take, and today that choice is yours. Will you choose Jesus and life, or continue on your own way, hoping things will be okay in the end? Talk to God in your own words and acknowledge that you've fallen short of His standard of perfection and ask for His forgiveness, that you believe trusting in Jesus is the only way to achieve that standard and that you choose to begin following Him today.
5. If you chose to say your own personal YES! to Jesus as Lord, we would love to hear about it! You can let us know at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com and we'll follow up with some next steps for you to take as you begin to live your story with Jesus.

Day One: [1 Corinthians 7](#)

Day Two: [1 Corinthians 8](#)

Day Three: [1 Corinthians 9](#)

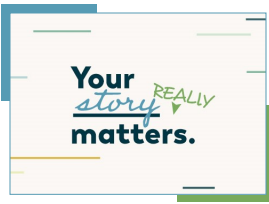
Day Four: [1 Corinthians 10](#)

Day Five: [1 Corinthians 11](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

"Three Crosses, Three Stories"

Pastor Tom Lundeen



MESSAGE NOTES

1/3 of all the chapters in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) focus on Easter week.

It is and always will be the most important week in human and divine history.

Easter week is where Jesus' story and our story intersects...

These 3 crosses paint a compelling picture of why Easter matters so much.

On the one hand...

1. ...The 2 Thieves Were Similar

- A. Both were guilty (note Luke 23:41a).
- B. Both suffering pain of crucifixion.
- C. Both see and hear Jesus (note Luke 23:32-34a, 38).
- D. Both want to be saved from death.
- E. And both, at first, join the crowd in mocking and insulting Jesus (note Matthew 27:44).

We have more in common with these 2 thieves than we may realize...

2. But...Something Starts to Change

- A. For one thief, he adds to his insults demands and bargaining (note [Luke 23:39](#)). Jesus is for some people a means to an end, a back-up emergency plan, a “get out of jail free” card.
- B. The 2nd thief no longer buys the lies about who Jesus is (note [Luke 23:40](#)). He acknowledged his wrongs (note [Luke 23:41a](#)). He embraced the truth about Jesus (note [Luke 23:41b, 42](#)). And he says Yes to Jesus as Lord (note [Luke 23:42](#)).

Your story really does matter to Jesus:

- To the first thief, Jesus says nothing...
- But to the second thief, Jesus says something amazing (note [Luke 23:43](#))!
- Jesus is ready to meet you today, too, to forgive and transform your life, just as He has done for thousands of Riversiders...

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