



## death by love

## 5. The Sound of Grace

Luke 23:43

- 3 men dying, 3 men speak, 3 men teach about the greatest gift

### 1. The easiest mistake in the world – v39

- How not to get the greatest gift. 2 reasons:

#### a) He lets a pressing present need dominate his thinking

#### b) He wants God to fit into his ideas

- “You don’t want God, you want a divine personal assistant” Tim Keller
- He makes Jesus’ performance a criteria for believing in him

### 2. The hardest admission in the world – v41,42

- How to get the greatest gift. 3 strands:

#### a) I’m guilty

- He saw his guilt, and the justice of the punishment
- He was a rebel – just like us. 2 ways to throw off God’s authority – by being bad, or by being good – which are you?

#### b) God doesn’t owe me

- People always cry out to God in trouble for help – but little change
- Think that God owes them – hardest admission – God doesn’t

#### c) I can’t do it – Jesus has to do it all

- Thief has come to end of himself
- He wants to fit in with what Jesus is doing, rather than have Jesus fit into what he wants
- He has a humble courageous faith that Jesus can do something

### 3. The greatest gift in the world – v43

- Grace – the staggering gift of God’s mercy to the undeserving

#### a) The Greatest – because it is for anyone

- He is a no-name nobody – but God is going to remember him
- But not for everyone (automatically) – the other thief misses out

#### b) The Greatest – because no sin is too big

- A murdered with his last gasp is forgiven
- You can’t be too bad for God—but you can be too good

#### c) The Greatest – because it’s free to us

- Thief has no time to earn his way into God’s good books
- The one beside him is doing all the paying

#### d) The Greatest – because it provides certain hope

- “Today you will...” - Certainty is possible because it is all based on Jesus’ performance no ours

#### e) The Greatest – because it gives the best

- Not just “in Paradise” but “with me” - with the greatest being ever
- Today – a certainty. The only day we have to make certain about eternity

# Milford RPC

www.milfordrpc.org

Sabbath 18th January 09

Welcome to our service this morning - today we are remembering Christ’s death for sinners as we take part in the Lord’s Supper.

If you are a Christian and haven’t joined with us for the Lord’s Supper before, and haven’t yet spoken to the elders about your faith in Jesus Christ, we’d invite you to watch, and come and speak to Mark before our next communion.

If you aren’t a Christian, or not sure, we’d invite you to watch as well, and if you have any questions, speak to Mark or one of the elders afterwards.

## Notices

Sab 18<sup>th</sup> Evening service at Milford 8pm  
Communion Thanksgiving Service - “It is Finished” - John 19:30

Wed Prayer Time @ Church 8pm

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of those interested in going on August GO Relief trip to Romania  
Cloughmills RP Church @ 3.00pm  
Deposit of £100 required to book aircraft seats

Sab 1<sup>st</sup> Rev Steven Robinson will be preaching and bringing Presbytery’s report on Milford

6-8 Feb Adult Conference - Portrush  
Theme - Developing a Vision for Mission - Rev Warren Peel  
Application forms available

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> AGM

Application forms for the Summer missions (GO) teams are available.

If you would like to receive bible reading notes for this year there is a sign up sheet for Let’s worship God (Airdrie RP Church’s own reading notes). Also some sample copies. €15 for the year. Notes can also be freely downloaded from [www.airdrierpcs.org/pubs.php](http://www.airdrierpcs.org/pubs.php)

Sabbath 25th - The Cries from the Cross - Luke 23, John 19

Opening Psalm: 83:7-11

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