

In the Middle of the Mess

Life has always been messy, because _____ is in the world.

When only 2 humans were on the earth, both disobeyed.

When 4 humans were on the earth, there was a murder.

... *But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it. Genesis 4:7*

Where do Messes come from and Why do they get out of hand?

Isaiah 59:1-3

Sin is like a raging river that _____ one away from God.

... *For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. James 1:13-15*

Why can't I clean up my Mess, Isaiah 59:9, 11 & 15-16 and Why would Jesus do it?

Though sin happens physically, it's a _____ problem.

Jesus is willing to get into the middle of our Messes!

... *because He exposed Himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels. Isaiah 53:12 NLT*

This is why Jesus took the _____ cross.
Matt. 27:38 Mark 15:27 Luke 23:33 John 19:18

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed. ³³ *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. Luke 23:32-33*

Clarity about where the crosses were.

In Greek it's Kranion. In English that word is Cranium.

In Common English that word is Skull.

In Aramaic it's Golgotha. In Latin it's _____.

It was a place outside the city for Shame & Death. *Heb. 13:12-13*

Common reactions to Jesus coming to the Middle:

Judas stole & betrayed Jesus, who washed his feet.

John 12:6 & 13:11 Matt. 27:5

He ran away from Jesus.

Barabbas a rebel & murderer, yet Jesus traded places with him.

Mark 15:7 & John 18:40

He never, in turn, _____ Jesus.

The first criminal on the cross _____ Jesus,

Luke 23:39

He wasn't sorry for his sins.

The other one on the cross confessed & believed in Jesus.

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," ... we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:40-43

That day, he was with Jesus _____.

He Himself bore our sins" in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by His wounds you have been healed" 1 Peter 2:24

so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him. Hebrews 9:28

Optional Readings:

Examples of when God showed up in challenging times.
Gen. 16 ¹⁴ 18 ^{1 & 13} 22 ¹⁴ 31 ¹¹⁻¹³ 32 ^{6 & 30} **Exodus** 3 ^{2 & 14} 14 ¹⁹⁻²⁰
Joshua 5 ¹³⁻¹⁵ **Judges** 6 ¹⁹⁻²¹ 13 ¹⁶⁻²² **Isaiah** 6 ¹⁻¹⁰
Daniel 3 ²⁴⁻²⁶ 6 ²² **John** 1 ¹⁴