



"The Other Two Crosses!"

Luke 23:32-43

Ephesians 2:8-9 – Salvation is a GIFT from God! We are saved BY GRACE through faith...this is not of yourself so that you can't ever boast about it!

### **1. The Other Two Crosses!**

- Both criminals on the other two crosses were mocking Jesus at first!
- Matthew 27:44 and Mark 15:32
- But, one of the two criminals began to listen to his conscience, and **SEE** who Jesus was on the cross! Luke 23:41
- Ecclesiastes 3:11 says that God has placed ETERNITY into the hearts of men! This is the part that when God reaches out to you...*that you respond to Him or not!*
- This thief realized Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23! His true sinful condition and that Jesus was his only hope and answer!
- People in our day still mock Jesus with their lifestyles, lips and lies!
- Luke 23:41 – this repentant criminal actually rebuked the other criminal for mocking!
- **Why?** *The criminal was blaspheming Jesus! Openly continued to mock Him!*
- Yet, the repentant thief reached a moment of truth before he died! The truth of Jesus!
- He asks Jesus to remember him in Paradise! Luke 23:40-42

**A.** Ephesians 2:1 says that you are dead spiritually and physically because of your disobedience and MANY sins!

- But, when you repent, put your faith in Jesus, confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that He is alive...*you become alive!*
- **Which thief do you represent today?**
- Is it repentant thief who believes and now lives for Jesus and trusts Him? **OR** Is it the thief that continues in his life to mock Jesus?
- See, this is **WHY** we honor Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday!!! So important!
- What Jesus DID for us and is still DOING in us!

**B. The KEY:** The repentant thief in Luke 23:42 says "Lord remember me..."

- **One** – He believed that his soul would not die but live. So, he knew that if he did not ask Jesus to forgive him and put his faith in Jesus...he would be in **TORMENT** forever! (The soul does not die!) **Luke 16:23** – “In Hell...”
- **Two** – He believed that **Jesus was King!** That he rules over all men in life and Judgment! **2 Corinthians 5:10!**
- **Three** – He believed in **Mercy!** He pleaded, and he cried out to Jesus to remember him **ON THAT DAY** before he died in his punishment on that cross! Jesus is his only Hope! **Proverbs 13:12!**
- **Four** – This man displays **True Faith!** He knows that he is staring into **ETERNITY** in a few moments! He decided to follow Jesus!
- **JESUS** – He graciously loves this man, accepts this man’s repentance and then affirms this man’s Salvation!!!! **Luke 23:43** – **And Jesus replied, “I assure you, TODAY you will be with me in Paradise!”**

## **2. Paradise!**

- The only two other places in the New Testament that this word is used are in **2 Corinthians 12:4** and **Revelation 2:7!**
- You do see in **Luke 16** **TWO DISTICT PLACES...a place of Torment and a place of Peace!**
- **Paradise** = **The PLACE of Peace for Eternity!**
- **Luke 16:26** – The Chasm between Paradise and Hell!
- *(Notice the picture on the screen with the two doors! Just an example!)*
- **John 10:7** – Jesus is the Door to Salvation!
- **Revelation 3:20** – Jesus stands at the Door and knocks! People can drift away in their relationship with Christ! Jesus says come back to Me!!!

### **A. Jesus’ response to all of this!**

- **Luke 23:43!**
- Jesus’s response is an incredible picture of what Paul said in **Ephesians 2:8-9!**
- What else can this be but **GRACE????** Nothing!
- What **good work** did that thief on the cross do? He was rightly being punished and condemned! He deserved the death penalty! What did he do to deserve such a promise from Jesus? Nothing! Salvation is a **GIFT!**
- His repentance **opened the door** to Jesus giving him the **GIFT** of Salvation!
- **John 14:6** – Jesus is the **ONLY** way, the **ONLY** truth and the **ONLY** life! No one goes to the Heavenly Father except through Him!!!! No other way to Paradise/Heaven!
- **Matthew 3:17** – Where does the Heavenly Father live? **In Heaven!**

**Closing: The story of the repentant thief reminds us that as long as there’s a breath of life, it is never too late to cry out to God for Mercy!**

- **Luke 15:5**, **Luke 15:6** and **Luke 15:7!** **Rejoice / Joy** over **ONE** lost person being found!
- What is the reminder today for you and me? **Hebrews 2:3!** “**Do not NEGLECT such a GREAT SALVATION!!!!**”
- Today is the **DAY** of Salvation!