

The Penitent Thief (Luke 23:40-43)

4/2/2021

The better we grasp what the cross meant to _____, the better we will understand what the cross *should* mean to _____.

The Thief's Request (vv. 40-42)

God decreed that He who was most _____ should die with those who were most _____.

Isa. 53:12 – Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.

Matt. 27 records that at the _____ of the crucifixion, both thieves were hurling _____ at the Lord Jesus.

_____ is not a curse if it draws us to the only One who *can* help us. Indeed, if we are *not* _____, we cannot be saved.

We can surmise that he heard Jesus pray, "Father, _____ them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

He knew that *he also* needed _____.

In v. 41 the believing thief now confesses his _____, and confesses Jesus' _____.

J. C. Ryle – *All who turn to Christ can say with their hearts, as well as with their lips, "We have left undone the things that we ought to have done, and we have done those things that we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us."*

He realized that true blessedness is to be _____ by Jesus, not in longevity of _____.

Hanging in apparent helplessness, Jesus *still* _____ the gate to paradise.

The Lord's Response (v. 43)

Truly =

The phrase "You shall be *with me*" describes the personal _____ they would enjoy together.

The primary feature of heaven (paradise) is this—that _____ is there.

C. H. Spurgeon – *"I think the Savior took the thief with him as a specimen of what He meant to do. He seemed to say to all the heavenly powers, 'I bring a sinner with me; he is a sample of the rest.'"*

Our Lord gives His own _____ as the reason for saving this man.

The thief's conversion was a *true* _____ conversion. Notes:

One of the Puritans, commenting on the thief's deathbed conversion, perceptively said, *"There is one such case recorded that none need despair, but only one that none might presume."*

The thief's faith, his prayer, his _____, his brotherly love, are unmistakable witnesses of the reality of his _____.

The penitent thief _____ his sin, repented of it, then threw himself at the _____ of the only One who could save him!

"The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day, and there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away." – William Cowper