

# NETCAST SERMON NOTES

**Series:** Easter 2026

**Date:** April 5th, 2026

**Title:** The Middleman

**Speaker:** Matt Chewning

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## **The Center of History**

Jesus was a first-century Middle Eastern carpenter turned rabbi who never held office or led an army, yet he stands at the center of human history. While history has had many teachers and miracle workers, Jesus is unique because He predicted His own death, was executed publicly, and walked out of a grave three days later.

## **Two Rebels and a Savior**

Jesus wasn't alone on the cross; He was flanked by two insurgents—angry, control-driven revolutionaries who likely viewed Jesus as a weak sellout. These two men lived similar lives of rebellion but were given the exact same opportunity in their final moments.

## **Observations from the Cross**

- Proximity vs. Presence: You can have proximity to Jesus and still miss Him.
- Never Too Far: It's never too late, and you're never too far gone for Jesus.
- Leave the Crowd: You have to walk away from the crowd to come to Jesus.
- The End Goal: Jesus is the end goal, not a means to your personal end goal.

## **The "List" at the Gates**

The story of the thief on the cross provides the clearest picture of grace in the Bible. He had no religious pedigree, no theological training, and was cursing Jesus just minutes before his death. When asked how he could possibly be allowed into Paradise, his only answer was the same one available to us:

"The man on the middle cross said I can come in."

Call to Action: Are you trying to "clean yourself up" to get on the list, or are you ready to trust the invitation of the Man on the middle cross?