

Make Christ Known to Your Associates

Luke 23:39-43

Introduction:

“This drastic measure of Grace speaks of two individuals in the World, one who follows the broad way, the other the narrow way. One depending on his own ability, the other realizing his own spiritual bankruptcy.”

“When the Lord of Glory died, He left this earth with two criminals at His side, forever silencing the notion of salvation by works.”
- David Jeremiah

I. A profane profession was given by one dying associate. (V. 39)

- A. It was a profession that asked for grace without a sense of reverence.

The Thief’s voice dripped with sarcasm; *And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him,*
Luke 23:39

“The railing criminal pictures human depravity, cursing himself into a Christless eternity.”
- David Jeremiah

- B. It was a profession that asked for grace without a sense of repentance.

Mocking Christ! . . . *saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.* **Luke 23:39**

He is despised and rejected of men; Isaiah 53:3

He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.
Proverbs 29:1

II. A profitable profession was given by the other dying associate. (V. 40-41)

- A. It was profitable because it came from a sober heart.

But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? **Luke 23:40**

How Did the One Thief Identify with the Other

- ◆ Both were under the same spiritual condemnation of sin.
- ◆ Both were enduring the same excruciating death penalty.
- ◆ Both were in close, physical proximity to Christ.
- ◆ Both were sinners in need of a Savior.
- ◆ Both admitted that they were receiving punishment they deserved.

B. It was profitable because it came from a sincere heart.

And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.
Luke 23:41

“Peter had abandoned Him, Pilate washed his hands of Him, His disciples had deserted Him, and when it seemed everyone had turned away, a crook placed himself between Jesus and His accusers and spoke on His behalf.”
- **Max Lucado**

How do you know when someone is sincere? When they are truthful?

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. (V. 7) Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Psalms 51:6-7

III. A powerful promise was given by a dying Deliverer. (V. 42-43)

What Was the Difference Between the Two Thieves?

- ◆ The first thief mocked Jesus, while the second thief believed in Jesus. The first thief belittled Jesus, while the second thief revered Jesus.
- ◆ The first thief denied responsibility for his sin, while the second thief accepted responsibility for his sin.
- ◆ The first thief commanded that Jesus save him, while the second thief requested Jesus to save him.
- ◆ The first thief received nothing, but the second received salvation from Jesus.
- ◆ The thief made a request concerning the promise.

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. **Luke 23:42**

A. The thief received a response concerning the promise.

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. **Luke 23:43**

“Jesus performs the greatest miracle of all, the miracle of forgiveness. A sin-soaked criminal is received by a blood-stained Savior.”
- **Max Lucado**

“And today, two thousand years later, the same is true. It is the watershed. It’s the Continental Divide. It’s Normandy. And you are either on one side or the other. A choice is demanded. We can do what we want with the cross. We can examine its history. We can study its theology. We can reflect upon its prophecies. Yet the one thing we can’t do is walk away in neutral. No fence sitting is permitted. The cross, in its absurd splendor, doesn’t allow that. That is one luxury that God, in his awesome mercy, doesn’t permit. On what side are you?”
- Max Lucado

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (V. 9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9