

ALL !N WITH JORDAN EASLEY

The Conversation On The Cross That Changed Eternity

Encounters With Jesus | Part 2 | Luke 23:32-43

INTRODUCTION

There is something about facing the end of life that makes people brutally honest. When eternity is staring you in the face, the unimportant things fade away, and only the truth remains. We see this reality on full display in Luke's account of the crucifixion. Jesus is hanging on a Roman cross between two criminals, both at the end of their roads. In their final moments, they each have an encounter with the King of Kings. One man dies with a heart full of mockery, while the other dies with a heart full of faith, forever changed by a simple conversation with Jesus.

This moment reveals a powerful truth: it is never too late to turn to Jesus. Grace is always available to those who seek it. No matter your past, your encounter with Christ today can change your eternity.

KEY POINTS

1. We Must Choose Between Resistance and Repentance

The two criminals hanging next to Jesus had two very different responses to their shared situation. The first was resistant, hurling insults and demanding a physical rescue. He saw Jesus as a problem-solver, not a Savior. The second criminal was repentant. He acknowledged his sin, defended Jesus's innocence, and understood that his punishment was just. This contrast serves as a mirror for our own hearts. In our moments of trial, we can either harden our hearts and mock God, or we can humble ourselves, confess our need for Him, and recognize His authority.

2. Faith Sees a King, Even When He Wears a Crown of Thorns

In one of the most powerful displays of faith in all of Scripture, the repentant criminal looked past the blood, the shame, and the suffering to see Jesus for who He truly is: a King with a Kingdom. He said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He was not asking for a temporary rescue from the cross but for eternal inclusion in God's Kingdom. His faith was not based on what he could see with his eyes but on who he knew Jesus to be in his heart. True faith trusts the King, even when life looks nothing like a victory.

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3. Salvation Is a Free Gift, Not an Earned Reward

Jesus's response to the criminal's plea is one of the most beautiful promises in the Bible: "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." The man on the cross had no time to clean up his life, perform good works, or get baptized. All he could offer was a moment of pure, unadulterated faith. This proves that salvation is not something we earn through our efforts. It is a gift of grace, received the moment we admit our sin, believe in Jesus, and confess Him as Lord. One moment of faith can rewrite a lifetime of failure.

The story of the criminal on the cross makes the Gospel message incredibly clear. Salvation isn't about being good enough or fixing all the broken things in your life before you can come to Christ. It is about admitting your need for a Savior. This is often called the ABCs of salvation: **A**dmit you are a sinner, **B**elieve that Jesus died for your sins and rose again, and **C**onfess Him as Lord of your life. The criminal on the cross could do nothing to save himself, but he believed, and Jesus changed everything. If a dying criminal can believe in a dying Savior and find eternal life, what is stopping you? Jesus is still in the business of offering grace, but do not wait for your final breath to start truly living for Him.

