Revisiting the Thief on the Cross

Shawn Jeffries · Luke 23:39–43

INTRODUCTION

- Luke is trying to get us to understand that Jesus is innocent. Jesus has done nothing wrong.
- The Holy Spirit did not put this man in the Bible to override all of those verses and what they teach about the necessity of baptism.
- Instead, he put this story in the Bible to teach us lessons about Jesus.

1 We See His Unselfishness

Luke 23:34; Luke 23:42–43; Matthew 27:44

- When he is on the cross, the gospels make it very clear that while he is hanging there, he's concerned about everybody but himself.
- But Jesus was saying, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they're doing. He is praying for his enemies.
- The robbers who have been crucified with him, were also insulting him.
- No, Jesus offers him compassion. He offers him grace, he offers him forgiveness, he offers him hope during a time when he is suffering.
- If we're really going to be like Jesus, then we got to be unselfish and concerned about others, even while we're going through extremely difficult periods of suffering.

2 We See His Grace Extended to Everyone

John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 1:12–15

- We clearly see that the Lord's grace has been extended to everybody.
- This guy is being crucified on a cross because he is a bad man.
- The Lord forgave him. The Lord extended to him something that he did not deserve, and that is kindness and grace.
- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that who believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners among whom I am foremost of all.
- It's in the Bible to announce that Jesus came to save everybody.

3 His Ability to Do More Than What We Ask

Ephesians 3:20; Luke 23:42–43

- God is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works within us.
- Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom. And he said, Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in paradise.

- He's asking Jesus to bless him in the days to come, but notice how Jesus gives him more than what he requested.
- He can do for us far above what we can imagine. He can bless us in ways far above what we can think.
- He can save our souls, he can wash our sins away, he can come back and raise us from the dead.

THE CHALLENGE

Do you need to respond to Jesus, the Christ, the one who died on the cross for our sins and was raised from the dead? Do you need to become a Christian?

MY NOTES