What About The Thief On The Cross?

Greg Kline · Luke 23:39–43 · Series: **Baptism**

INTRODUCTION

- The issue is people say, because that thief on the cross was told by Christ, today you will be with me in paradise. That he was saved through nothing else besides looking at Christ and saying, Lord, remember me.
- If in fact this man does have a reliable and God given path to salvation to paradise, then I want to be on that train.
- First of all, the thief has to be in heaven, and second of all, the thief has to have done it in a way that I can exactly emulate and replicate.

1 His Background Is Relatively Unknown

Mark 1:4; John 4:1–3; John 18:36

- The primary use of this thief on the cross, this man who was hanged, this criminal is the charge that baptism is not necessary.
- Until you produce a scripture that says the thief was not baptized, how can you make such a case?
- John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- So not only was John baptizing, Christ's disciples were baptizing.
- Let's quit saying what the Bible does not say. Let's stick to what is revealed.
- We're giving this man far too little credit for what he did know.

2 Jesus Can Forgive Sins

Matthew 9:1–7; Luke 7:36–48

- Jesus can forgive sins. Which one of you here this morning believe that you can forgive sins?
- But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.
- Why could Jesus not have that power on the cross?
- Her sins, which are many, are forgiven. For she loved much, but he who is forgiven little loves little.
- The thief knew Christ controlled who entered the kingdom, and so he laid his plan, his plea of mercy out for Jesus the Christ.

3 He Lived Before Christ's Death

Romans 10:9; Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 9:15–22

- If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Our salvation depends entirely on the resurrection scene.
- The thief didn't have access to the blood of Christ and the freedom to be baptized into the resurrection.

- Indeed, under the law, almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins.
- We are blessed this morning to be born into a new covenant, to be born this side of the cross.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Not point to other people, but point the fingers at ourselves and say, What must I do to be saved? Reason the scriptures and act now while you can, because the kingdom is coming.**

MY NOTES