

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#99 – “The Story of Two Condemned Men” – Luke 23:39-43

I. Introduction

A. Skunk works

1. The luckiest man alive

B. Today’s Text: Luke 23:39-43

II. Exposition

A. Luke 23:39

1. Matthew states their crime – Matt. 27:38.
2. This man is hardened.
3. He lashed out at Jesus.
4. Both thieves were casting insults – Matt. 27:44; Mark 15:32

B. Luke 23:40-41

1. Suddenly one man sees the truth.
2. The fear of God
 - a. Romans 3:10-18
3. He acknowledged the truth about Jesus.
 - a. Similar to Pilate – Luke 23:22

4. Three evidences of conversion.

- a. First – Fear of God and His judgment.
- b. Second – A sense of personal sinfulness.
 1. Luke 15:17-19; Matt. 5:3-4
- c. Third – A transformed heart.

C. Luke 23:42

1. Confirms his heart transformation.
2. Jesus’ name means “God saves.”

D. Luke 23:43

1. Jesus does not forget those who pray in repentance and faith.
2. Our bodies are in the ground, but our souls enter glory.
 - a. II Cor. 5:8
3. He would go to “paradise” – II Cor. 12:2-4; Rev. 2:7

III. Points for Reflection

- A. Note a pertinent lesson on anger from the thief who was on the wrong side of Jesus on the cross.
- B. The impenitent thief had no faith or repentance.
 1. Eph. 2:8-9; II Tim. 2:25
- C. Note the personal salvation and intimacy given by Jesus to the thief on the right side of the cross.