

Insights from Luke

#99: “The Story of Two Condemned Men”

Luke 23:39-43

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“³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, ‘Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!’ ⁴⁰ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, ‘Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?’ ⁴¹ And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.’ ⁴² And he was saying, ‘Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!’ ⁴³ And He said to him, ‘Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.’”

Luke 23:39

“³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, ‘Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!’”

Matthew 27:44

“⁴⁴ The robbers who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him with the same words.”

Mark 15:32

“³² ‘Let this Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!’ Those who were crucified with Him were also insulting Him.”

Luke 23:40-41

“⁴⁰ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, ‘Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?’ ⁴¹ And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”

First – Fear of God and His judgment

Second – A sense of personal sinfulness

Third – a transformed heart

Luke 23:42

“⁴² And he was saying, ‘Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!’”

Luke 23:43

“⁴³ And He said to him, ‘Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.’”

Note a pertinent lesson on anger from the thief who was on the wrong side of Jesus on the cross.

The impenitent thief had no faith or repentance.

Ephesians 2:8-9

“⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

II Timothy 2:25

“²⁵ ...with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth.”

Note the personal salvation and intimacy given by Jesus to the thief on the right side of the cross.