

Jesus is mocked by most; but saves a repentant sinner

Luke 23:26 – 43

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
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The condemned criminal is to carry the crossbeam to the place of execution

■ **Luke 23:26**

When they led Him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, coming in from the country, and placed on him the cross to carry behind Jesus.

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
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They should rather align themselves with Jesus in weeping for the city!

■ **Luke 23:27, 28**

And following Him was a large crowd of the people, and of women who were mourning and lamenting Him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

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### A reversal of the usual state of blessedness

#### ■ **Luke 23:29, 30**

For behold, the days are coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us," and to the hills, "Cover us."

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### A fire analogy

#### ■ **Luke 23:31**

For if they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?

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### The Romans wanted to maximize public exposure of those crucified

#### ■ **Luke 23:32, 33**

Two others also, who were criminals, were being led away to be put to death with Him. When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.

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Jesus loves His enemies and prays  
for them

■ **Luke 23:34**

But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them;  
for they do not know what they are doing."  
And they cast lots, dividing up His garments  
among themselves.

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Jesus did not "save" Himself so  
that He could save others!

■ **Luke 23:35**

And the people stood by, looking on. And  
even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying,  
"He saved others; let Him save Himself if this  
is the Christ of God, His Chosen One."

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They taunt the Savior

■ **Luke 23:36 - 38**

The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to  
Him, offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If  
You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!"  
Now there was also an inscription above  
Him, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

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One criminal blasphemes as he is dying

■ **Luke 23:39**

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

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The other criminal admits his sin

■ **Luke 23:40, 41**

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

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A repentant sinner finds salvation!

■ **Luke 23:42, 43**

And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

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### The faith of the repentant criminal

- 1) He admits he is a sinner
- 2) He admits that death is a valid penalty for sin
- 3) He confesses Jesus' innocence
- 4) He confesses faith that Jesus will indeed have a kingdom to rule over

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### Applications and Implications

- 1) There is no such thing as neutrality in regard to the claims of Christ
- 2) We need to decide what sort of salvation we want
- 3) No matter how sinful your life has been, it is not too late to turn to Christ

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- 1) There is no such thing as neutrality in regard to the claims of Christ

#### ■ **Luke 11:23**

He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.

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2) We need to decide what sort of salvation we want

- Salvation from life's problems is not what God offers through the gospel
- Much mischief is done in the church when preachers offer temporal salvation only
- Salvation from God's wrath against sin is the only salvation everyone needs

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3) No matter how sinful your life has been, it is not too late to turn to Christ

■ **Revelation 22:17**

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come."  
And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

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3) No matter how sinful your life has been, it is not too late to turn to Christ

■ **Romans 10:8, 9**

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" -- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;

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3) No matter how sinful your life has been, it is not too late to turn to Christ

■ **Romans 10:10, 11**

for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."

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3) No matter how sinful your life has been, it is not too late to turn to Christ

■ **Romans 10:12, 13**

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; for "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

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