

History's Most Popular Thief

Can people living today be saved like the thief on the cross?"

Consider three facts in answering this question.

Fact #1: The thief lived under a different law than we live under today.

Suppose someone declares,

I will not pay income tax to the federal government because George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln did not pay it.

It is true these did not pay income tax as we do, but this is because the tax system did not become a law until after their deaths. (But what do you think they would do if they lived today?)

Similarly, religious requirements have changed during the three periods of sacred history.

Abraham, living under Patriarchal Law, was never commanded to observe the Lord's supper. Today, in the Christian Dispensation, we are not obligated to keep the Passover or to offer animal sacrifices as people were during the Mosaic Dispensation.

The Law of Moses, which did not require baptism, was in force during Christ's life. He kept it, fulfilled it (Matthew 5:17), and then removed it in death (Colossians 2:14). John had preached baptism in preparation for Christ, but it was not part of Moses' Law. It is possible (some argue likely) that the thief had been among the multitudes baptized by John, as he referred to Jesus as "Lord" and had some knowledge of the kingdom (Matthew 3:1-6).

Either way, this promise was before Jesus' death, and thus before the new law, the gospel, came into effect. Jesus' will is the New Testament. Like our wills, it did not go into effect until after the death of the one who made it:

For this cause he is the mediator of the new testament . . . For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth (Hebrews 9:15-17).

The thief died before the Testament requiring baptism came into effect. Since Jesus' death, no one has the right to offer salvation on different terms than Jesus stipulated.

Fact #2: While on earth, Jesus had the power to personally forgive sins.

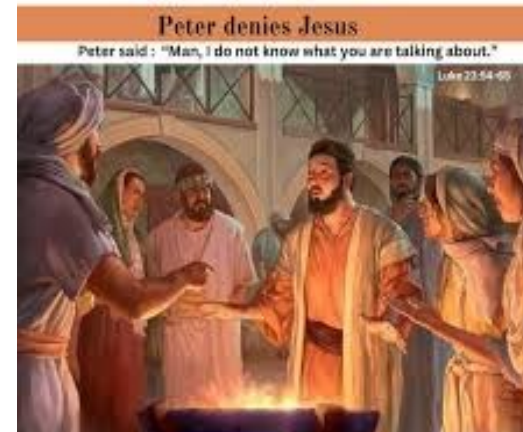
Facts #3: The thief died before Jesus said, "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

(continuing next week)

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Casey Hambelton had successful surgery on her left foot last week in Kansas City, and she will have a more difficult surgery on her right foot Wednesday, April 16.
- ◆ Larry and Dorlene are still dealing with health issues and miss being here. Dorlene will have knee replacement on May 19.
- ◆ Bill Agee, Tinker's golf buddy, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- ◆ Joy Cutbirth, a friend of Barbara Luna, from Theodosia has been diagnosed with cancer and is starting daily radiation treatments.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Dimple Mitchell, Barbara White, Dorlene and Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Ruth Strain, Steve and Diane Siebels, Bob Robbins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Jack Moyers, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox (Dora).
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Jack Moyers, Sycamore Springs. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven.

Come early if you can Wednesday April 16 at 5:00
to help fill Easter eggs with candy.



Peter denied Jesus only three times
but we deny Jesus everyday with our
sinful doings.

Linda Christ

He served the one who betrayed
Him. He healed the one who
arrested Him.



He loved the world who crucified
Him. That's my Jesus.

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
4-4	Nichole Lane	4-7	Jim and Pat Kirkland
4-6	Barbara James	Birthdays	
4-11	Vicki Smith	4-26	Mark Lane
4-14	Sailor Anderson	4-28	Rebecca Hambelton
4-18	Lana Cockrum	4-27	Barbara Stevens
4-19	Logan Hillhouse	4-29	Harold Reynolds

Bethany Schneider will be serving tacos and dessert for our fellowship supper Wednesday night. Adult Bible class is starting a study of Galatians.

Date	Event	Details
Saturday, April 19, 11:30 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt—need candy donated	See Barbara Stevens if you can help. They need candy donated for the plastic eggs.
Saturday, April 26 10 a.m.	Ladies' Prayer Brunch	We Host! Karin Reynolds will be the speaker. See Barbara Luna if you can help.
April 27-30	Spring Gospel Meeting—Thayer	Ben Wright from Jasper, Arkansas
May 2nd, 7:30 p.m.	Bonfire Devo	More details later
Saturday, June 21 9 a.m.—2 p.m.	VBS—Magnified!	Discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things.

April Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

4-6 John Abraham
4-13 Mark Lane
4-20 David Stevens
4-27 Don Luna

Communion & Closing Prayer

Dana Crisp
R. J. Moyers
D. E. Pleasant
John Abraham

Song Leader: Titus Smith
Greeters: Don and Barbara Luna

The Family News

April 13, 2025

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Denied, Arrested, and Tried***

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

Worship God by Singing Praises

Communion Service

Song before Sermon

Sermon and Invitation

Invitation Song

Closing Song and Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us