

# The Last Week Of Jesus' Life - Jesus And The Thief On The Cross

Sunday PM 11/10/19

## Introduction:

Our Scripture *Luke 23.39-43* Let say, it is dangerous to build a doctrine based on an assumption or an exception. For instance, *Hebrews 9.27* does have a few exceptions but the rule still stands. There were two thieves beside Jesus but we usually concentrate on the one who was saved. Unfortunately, some try to use this to negate what the Bible says about salvation later on. Others may not see some real lessons for us today, how we are similar to this thief.

### I) Why Was The Thief Saved Without Baptism?

#### A) Because Jesus said so!

1. Jesus did some things only He could do, ex. Forgiveness of sins, *Mark 2.5*
2. If you are on a cross and Jesus appears to you, you can be saved like the thief on the cross.

#### B) Because baptism signifies the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, *Romans 6.3-4*.

1. We know both thieves died after Jesus.
2. We know the burial and resurrection had not happened yet.

#### C) Because the Gospel had not been preached yet, *Luke 24.46-49*

1. Jesus gave the Great Commission some days after His death, burial, and resurrection.

2. On the Day of Pentecost Peter told people what to do to be saved, *Acts 2.38*.

## II) Lessons We Can Learn From The Thief On The Cross

### A) He recognized the brevity of life. *Psalm 103.15-16; James 4.14*

1. He was dying and he knew it.
2. A lot of people never come to terms with their mortality.

### B) He understood the reality of the afterlife, *v. 42*

1. God made man for eternity, *Ecc. 3.11*.
2. Our soul will go to one of 2 places, that is a fact. *Matthew 7.13-14*

### C) He understood his guilt before God, *v. 41*

1. We are receiving what we deserve.
2. He was on the cross due to breaking some Roman law.
3. We are all sinners before God, *Romans 3.23*.
  - a. We cannot argue a case of mistaken identity.
  - b. Cannot argue ignorance or everyone else does it.

### D) He understood the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, *v. 40-41*

1. Jesus was innocent - but others were mocking and ridiculing Him.

2. Sinless perfection is hard to understand, but this man understood who and what Jesus was. God and man, *John 8.58-59; 20.30-31*.

**E) He understood Jesus had the power to save him, v. 42**

1. Think of the ridiculous nature of this statement-no wonder the other thief mocked Him, v. 39
2. Jesus did not just speak about salvation but salvation in and through Him, *John 14.6*.

**F) He understood he could not be saved by his own good works**

1. Self-righteousness means we will merit or earn our salvation.
2. We are to do the works of God, *John 6.28-29*
  - a. There are works commanded by God.
  - b. The command to forgive is a work, *Luke 17.1-4*
  - c. Believing is a work, *John 6.30*
  - d. Repentance is a work commanded by God, *Acts 17.30*.
  - e. Confession of Jesus as the Son of God, *Matthew 10.32-33*.
  - f. Baptism is a work commanded by Jesus, *Mark 16.16*.
3. None of these works are of self-righteousness but they are essential to salvation.

**G) He understood it is never too late to be saved.**

1. He was on the cross but he still had the ability to be saved, *43*.
2. Today is our day of salvation, *2 Corinthians 6.2*.

**Conclusion:**

This man was saved by grace, *Ephesians 2.8*. Faith is about believing and trusting God. This man trusted Jesus. Do you? Jesus tells us to believe and be baptized, *Mark 16.16*. Do you trust Jesus? Will your trust be evident by your actions? *1 Peter 3.21*