

Lessons From The Other Cross

(Luke 23:39-43)

- Introduction:
1. Few have has as much said about them when so little was written as has been the case with the thief on the cross.
 2. While there is not much said about the thief, there are several lessons we can learn from him.
 3. Let's examine some of those lessons.

I. The Thief Had A Change Of Heart

- A. (Matthew 27:44) Both thieves railed on Jesus.
- B. (Luke 23) One thief had a change of heart during the six hours on the cross that day.
- C. In order for anyone to be saved today, they must do as the thief did...undergo a change of heart (Acts 3:19).

II. Jesus Was Merciful And Gracious

- A. (Luke 23:43).
- B. There was no grudge, only acceptance.
- C. (2 Peter 3:9) God is not willing that any should perish.
- D. (Luke 17:7-10) We are unprofitable servants.
- E. (Romans 5:15) Salvation is a gift.

III. Perfect Knowledge Is Not Essential For Salvation

- A. (Luke 23:42).
- B. (Acts 1:6).
- C. Christianity involves growth (2 Peter 3:18).

IV. There Is A Place For Departed Spirits When Death Comes

- A. (Luke 23:43).
- B. (John 20:17) Jesus had not ascended to the Father.
- C. (Luke 16:19-31) Description of the realm called "Hades."

V. The Thief And Baptism

- A. We must remember under what law the thief lived.
- B. (Hebrews 9:16) A will is not in forced until the death of the testator.
- C. (Luke 5:24) Jesus had power on earth to forgive sins.
- D. (Mark 16:16).

- Conclusion:
1. What God chose to record about the thief on the cross should not be used as an excuse to disobey God...rather the focus should be on the love, mercy, and grace God is willing to bestow on sinful men.
 2. Have you accepted God's grace?