

The Thief on the Cross

(Luke 23:39-43)

- Introduction:
1. The day Jesus was crucified was the most pivotal and important days in the history of this world.
 2. It was on this day that Jesus died and made atonement for our sins.
 3. That being the case, why spend ink recording the insignificant death of a thief?
 4. The fact is, the death of the thief on the cross is not insignificant, nor was it recorded as unnecessary filler.
 5. Let's briefly take a look at the three crosses, and what can be learned from each.

I. The Cross of Jesus

- A. On this cross, a man died for sin.
- B. The cross of Jesus demonstrated the depth of God's love (John 3:16).
- C. (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:18; Ephesians 2:16).
- D. However, Jesus' death on the cross doesn't guarantee that we will all be saved (2 Corinthians 6:1).
- E. The cross of Jesus demonstrated the depth of God's love.

II. The Cross of the Penitent Thief

- A. On this cross, a man died to sin.
- B. The cross of the penitent thief demonstrated the scope of God's love (Titus 2:11; Romans 5:6-10).
- C. This thief teaches me that God will forgive sinners; even sinners who have wasted their lives and have nothing to give.

III. The Cross of the Impenitent Thief

- A. On this cross, a man died in his sins.
- B. This cross of the impenitent thief demonstrated the freedom of God's love (Revelation 22:17; Mark 10:17-22).
- C. The statement that says, "There are no atheists in foxholes," just isn't correct.

- Conclusion:
1. I for one, am glad that the Lord decided to preserve this brief conversation.
 2. It gives me hope, and creates within me a sense of awe for the God we serve.
 3. Who is a God like God (Micah 7:18)?