

A Savior



For Sinners

A Savior for Sinners

Luke 23:33–43

“³³ And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

³⁴ Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

³⁵ And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

³⁶ And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,

³⁷ And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

³⁸ And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

⁴⁰ But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

⁴¹ And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

⁴² And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

⁴³ And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

The Bible is an amazing book. It is the inspired word of God. We must remember that the Bible is not a revelation of what God knows, but a revelation of what God wants man to know. If it were a revelation of what God knew then the world could not contain the books that would have been written. We read in **John 21:25** **“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.”** As the Bible is a condensed book then every word is important and filled with meaning. At the very top of this list is the story of what Jesus did at the cross of Calvary where God revealed His love for sinners. Sometimes the devil will take something that is bad in our life and try to blame God and say, God doesn't love us. Story of the daisy etc.

The cross is the heart of the gospel, the sum of all that God has done for man, and all that man has done against God. On the cross, Jesus the son of God paid the supreme price bearing our sins in His own body on the tree. The cross is the symbol of Christianity. This is deep and very meaningful. The hallmark of the church is the cross, which in and of itself gives a powerful message. When you look at the cross you see, God's love for sinners and the death of His son. Notice the cross points upward towards heaven, from which Jesus came to this earth. Remember **John 3:16**, **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not**

perish, but have everlasting life.” We also see that the cross points outward to all the world that He loves, and wants them to come to Him and be saved. It also points down to a burning hell prepared for the godless, but here we discovered Jesus Christ bringing hell upon Himself and cancel out future because of our faith in what he did for us. All the Old Testament looks forward to the cross. All the New Testament looks back to the cross. This is where we found a Savior for sinners. This is the story that was the main theme of the preachers in the Bible. John the Baptist, who said in **John 1:29** **“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”** This was Peter's message at Pentecost. It was also the message of the Apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 2:2**, **“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”** Philip preaching in **Acts 8:5**, **“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.”** And today, this is a story that I love to tell.

I. The Cross on Calvary. V 33–36

And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified him. There at the summit of a hill just outside the city of Jerusalem; we sing on a hill far away. It was here Satan was defeated the one who ruled the world. I read of Napoleon after the defeat at Waterloo. Napoleon met with all his generals to analyze the battle, flawed strategy during their discussion. The little general pointed at England on the colored map before them and said bitterly. Except for that red

Spot, I would be master of the world. Satan could say the same thing except for a hill called Calvary, he could've rule the world. But praise be to God for Mt. Calvary that rescued this lost world from the enemy Satan.

A. A Place of Misery. V 33

And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified him. It was a place of misery because crucifixion was the cruelest execution. The human mind has ever devised no Roman citizen could be crucified. Death by crucifixion was reserved for felons, insurrectionist, criminals and murderers. We reading **Galatians 3:13, “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”** Jesus came to take our curse upon Himself and paid our debt. He suffered that which you and I should have suffered. Think about this, Jesus took our hell upon Himself and it was a miserable experience, think about the torments of hell. We read in **Luke 16:22d-23. “the rich man also died, and was buried;²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments.”** We know that Jesus suffered, they scourged him with a cat-of nine tails, 39 strips, and He had 195 plowed furrows on his back, a crown of thorns on his head, nails in his hands and in his feet. Also, in hell the rich man thirst, he had asked send Lazarus that he might drop the tip of his finger in water and cool his tongue. Jesus said from the cross-I thirst. In hell, there was a great gulf separating the rich man from Lazarus. When Jesus was dying, He cried, my God, my God, why has though forsaken me? We are told that in hell there is a place of darkness. And we read here in **verse 44 “And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness**

over all the earth until the ninth hour”. Jesus was not suffering for what He did. He was perfect, but he was suffering for you and for me. **2 Corinthians 5:21, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin.”** It was a place of misery.

B. A Place of Mercy. V 34

Then said Jesus, Father forgive them for they know not what they do. Here, Jesus is beaten, bleeding and nailed to a cross to die from the wounds of those people around. The first words out of his mouth are not words of condemnation, or a cry for 12 legions of angels. No, He prayed, Father forgive them. That's why call it a place of mercy, because Jesus did not have to give them what they deserved. They had beaten him crucified him on a tree of a cross. Yet, he prayed for His enemies. He forgave them even without them asking Him. Oh, how difficult it is for us to forgive people. How easy it is for us to hold a grudge, to be resentful to be unchrist like. We need to be forgiving.

II. The Convicted Criminals. V 39–42

Now when they crucified Jesus it wasn't enough just too physically abuse Jesus. They also wanted to humiliate Him in two ways. One, they crucified Him naked; He was exposed before the whole world. The artists have been kind in drawing pictures of our Lord always covering Him but he died naked. The second thing was they crucified him between criminal's two male factors of the lowest sort. I mean two well-known criminals. Yet I may remind you in Jesus life, He was known as a

friend of sinners often seen with them. I don't think they understood that Jesus Christ came to save sinners. Isaiah had prophesied this event and what would take place at the end of our Lord's life in **Isaiah 53:12b**, “and he was numbered with the transgressors.”

A. One Male Factor Rejected Christ. V 39

One of the male factors which were hung nailed on him saying, if thou be the Christ save thyself and us. He was only thinking only of himself. How selfish. You see, he was a hardened criminal. In fact, in the beginning we read in **Matthew 27:44**, “**The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.**” We do not know which of the two sinners was the greatest sinner; both were no doubt on wanted posters all over Jerusalem. What had led this man to this place? I know that he was not born and predestined to go to hell, nor to live a life of sin. It was a choice that he made choosing the path of sin and then going a little deeper until he was an addicted man. He had to steal and lie to fulfill his fleshly desire. He became a hardened sinner, calloused in his heart, and as a result, said no to the Savior.

Every time a sinner rejects Christ as a Savior, his heart becomes more and more hardened, lessening his chances of ever being saved.

One of the Devil's best tricks is to say to men, “Wait unit you feel more like it.” That sounds reasonable, but the Devil knows that every time a person says no to Christ, he feels less and less like

it.

Several years ago, someone made a study of this by counting the crowd and asking at what age people were saved. This person came up with this answer:

If one isn't saved by the time he is 21, the chances are 5,000 to 1 that he will ever be saved.

If he isn't saved by the time he is 30, the chances then are 15,000 to 1 that he will ever be saved.

If he isn't saved by the time he is 40, the chances then are 30,000 to 1.

And if he isn't saved by the time he is 50, the chances are 150,000 to 1 that he will ever trust Christ as his Savior.

Every time a person says no to Jesus Christ, it is easier to say no the next time.

The impenitent thief shows how hard the human heart can become through its continual rejection of Jesus Christ. If someone reading these lines has the least desire to trust Christ, I urge you not to wait another moment. Every time you reject Him, you feel less and less like accepting Him as Savior.

B. One Male Factor Received Christ. V 40–43

The other answering **“But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this**

man hath done nothing amiss. ⁴² And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.” While some do reject Jesus, there are many who receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. This man recognized Jesus was a Savior for sinners. He admitted that he was a sinner. One of the first things the sinner must do is see himself a sinner and lost. Once you get a man lost it is easy for them to get saved. How did he come about this decision since this could have been the very first encounter he ever had with Jesus? I believe several things convinced this man. One he had never saw a man give himself to die on the cross, without any fighting, with no harsh words. He simply laid his hands on the cross and let them nail His hands. Nobody took Jesus’s life. He gave it for you and me. The man heard, Jesus praying Father forgive them for they know not what they do. This criminal heard them pass by look up at Jesus and say He saved others. On Jesus head was written the King of the Jews. This man was convinced that Jesus Christ was the savior. Now here was a dying man going into eternity in his last breath. He asked Jesus to remember him.

III. The Caring Christ. V 43

And Jesus said, and unto him verily I say unto thee. Today shalt be with me in Paradise.

What a wonderful word. We see clearly here that Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Jesus could have said to this thief, you deserve your fate you are a wicked robber and deserve to die. He could have said, you have waited too long, it is too late now. You are on your deathbed. I have been asked if I believe in deathbed repentance. My answer that is yes and in fact I have seen many of them.

A. Jesus Addressed Him. V 43

Jesus said to this thief, today shalt be with me in Paradise. That was a word of salvation. Now I love that word today. That's God's word. The devil's word is tomorrow. Beware of this some of you here tonight will feel the call of God to be saved and the devil will say to you, not tonight some other time do it later. You have plenty of time. If you are thinking this right now, that is wrong, it is the devil speaking. We don't know this could be the last opportunity for you to be saved. There is no question this was the last opportunity for this thief.

B. Jesus Assured Him. V 43

When Jesus said, verily, the word means amen. It is a confirmation. He was answering and assuring the praying sinner that he could depend upon Christ to grant his request. Today shalt be with me. Salvation is a person. He would be with Jesus

for eternity. This repentant thief was Jesus last companion on earth and His first companion in heaven. Jesus did many wonderful things on earth. He raised Lazarus from the dead. He calmed the storm on Galilee. He walked on water. He healed the leper. He healed the poor woman with the issue of blood. The greatest thing Jesus ever did was to give His life on the cross of Calvary to save lost sinners.

William Cowper though was plagued with doubts, understood that if the thief could be saved. We all can be. He wrote a song.

There is a Fountain Filler with Blood.
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.
The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day
And there may I though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.

And to you today Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary to save you and no matter whom you or what you have done he will save you right now if you call on Him.

Maybe you feel a need to ask Jesus to forgive your sin. Why not do it right now. A single pray, this prayer.

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, I ask you to forgive me and my sin and come into my heart and save me. Amen! That is all it takes to be a

child of God. Just like this man on the cross that day. Maybe you would like to share this with Pastor Carpenter, if so please call **606-786-4878**.

"Come To The Mountain"



Mountain Ash TM

Baptist Church

**390 Buck Creek Road
Williamsburg, KY 40769**

(606) 786-4878

Billy Carpenter

11-2016