

THREE CROSSES

Luke 23:32-43

INTRODUCTION:

According to our text, Jesus was crucified between two malefactors (criminals) on a rocky hill called Calvary. On one cross – we see Christ dying For Sin – On another cross we see a criminal dying In his Sin, and on the last cross we see a criminal dying To his Sin.

- “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” (Luke 23:32-43).

In this sermon, we will meditate on the Three Crosses:

- I. THE CROSS OF REDEMPTION (vv. 33-38)
 - A. Christ Did Not Die for Himself – He had no sin, He died for our sins (2 Cor 5:21)
 - B. Christ Bore Our Sin (Isa 53:5; 1Pet 2:24; Rom 5:8)
 - C. Christ Fulfilled Prophecy (Ps 22:16, 18; John 19:28-30)
 - D. Christ Offered Forgiveness (vv. 33, 34-38; 2 Pet 3:9)
- II. THE CROSS OF REJECTION (vv. 33, 39)
 - A. This Criminal is the One “On the Left Side” (v. 33; Matt 25:41, 46; John 3:19; Acts 7:51)
 - B. This Criminal Died in His Sin (John 8:24; Rev 20:15)
 - C. This Criminal Chose His Destiny (Deut 30:19; John 3:36; Luke 16:19-31)
- III. THE CROSS OF RECEPTION (vv. 40-43)
 - A. This Criminal is the One on the Right Hand Alongside Christ (v. 33; Matt 25:34)
 - B. He Feared God (v. 40; Prov 28:13; 1 John 1:9)
 - C. The Plea of this Criminal – “Lord Remember Me ..” (v. 42;
 - D. The Promise of the Savior (v. 43; Luke 23:43; Eph 2:8-9)

CONCLUSION:

- A. The Three Crosses with Two Choices on a Rocky Hill Called Calvary
 - 1. The Cross of Redemption – Christ Died For Sin – that we might have life.
 - 2. First Choice - The Cross of Rejection – Reject Christ - One Criminal Died In Sin (Unbeliever)
 - 3. Second Choice - The Cross of Reception – Accept Christ - One Criminal Died To Sin (Believer)
- B. A man was asked to receive Christ but put it off by saying, “Oh, don’t bother me now. There is always the eleventh hour. Remember the dying thief.” He was shocked when the persistent Christian said pointedly, “Which thief? Remember, there were two!” The man responded, “That’s right. I had forgotten that. I meant the saved one!” That very night he decided to trust Jesus for his salvation. Look in faith now to that One in heaven who once hung on the middle cross. You too will hear His word of forgiveness and hope.

From the Preaching Ministry of:
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March 22, 2026

“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).