
SERMON OUTLINE

Why one of two thieves went to heaven

Luke 23:32-43

- I. Two kinds of men crucified (23:32-33).
 - A. Jesus was holy; the other two were criminals.
 - B. Jesus was crucified with sinners, identifying with sinners (Isaiah 53:12; Mark 15:28; Luke 22:37).

- II. Two attitudes at the cross (23:34-38)
 - A. The victim Jesus – Forgiving (34)
 - B. The perpetrators – Mocking (35-38)
 - The Jews mocked Jesus thinking his death proved he really wasn't the Messiah.
 - The soldiers mocked Jesus thinking his death proved he really wasn't the King of the Jews.

- III. Two conversations with Jesus (23:39-43)
 - A. Initially, both criminals cursed Jesus (Matthew 27:44; Mark 15:32).
 - B. Thief #1 – Angry Rejection of Jesus Christ
 - Angrily demanding deliverance (39)
 - C. Thief #2 – Humble Faith in Jesus Christ
 - He rebuked the first thief and admitted they both deserved punishment.
 - He asked Jesus to “remember him” in his kingdom someday.
 - Jesus promised him paradise (heaven) today.

Why Jesus promised heaven to the second thief

1. He admitted he was a sinner.
2. He realized his sin must be punished.
3. He realized Jesus was his only hope.
4. He asked Jesus for eternal life, believing he could provide it.