**CrossRoads Community Church**

**Sermon Summary Sheet, Week of March 12, 2023**

***“ENCOUNTERING JESUS – THEN AND NOW”***

**Part 2: Redemption Transaction, Luke 23: 39-43**

**INTRODUCTION: *The story of the penitent thief is one of the many ironies at Calvary. Jesus was being mocked because He could not save Himself, yet He saved others, including the thief, by not saving Himself. He was accused by the rulers of Israel of claiming to be a king, and hence a threat to the power and authority of Rome. And yet the same people who claimed to be protecting Rome from Jesus mocked, scorned, and ridiculed Him as impotent and helpless. He was accused of blasphemy against God by those who blasphemed Him, the true God. Jesus, the innocent, righteous one, was executed by the guilty, turning justice on its head. He was cursed by His enemies, who hated Him, but cursed in an infinitely greater way by His Father, who loves Him. The One who gives life and is life, died that those who are dead might receive life.”* John MacArthur**

**1. selfish demands**

***“Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, ’If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.’” Luke 23:39***

* + - ***The Crowd- A Show, Matthew 27: 39-40***
    - ***The Conceited/Controlling – A Sign, Mark 15: 31-32***
    - ***The Criminal(s) – A Solution, Matthew 27:44***

**2. surrender decision**

***“But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?’” Luke 23:40***

* + - ***Cursing - 1 Corinthians 6:10-11***
    - ***Confrontation - Acts 3: 18-19***
    - ***Confession - Romans 10:9***
    - ***Call - Romans 10:13***

**3. salvation declared**

***“And Jesus said to him, ’Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’” Luke 23:43***

* + - ***Assurance from the Savior - John 5:24***
    - ***Acceptance of the Situation - 2 Corinthians 5:8***

**conclusion**

***“One minute after you slip behind the parted curtain, you will either be enjoying a personal welcome from Christ or catching your first glimpse of gloom as you have never known it. Either way, your future will be irrevocably fixed and eternally unchangeable.***

***One of the thieves had a change of heart as he realized Jesus’ innocence, his own sin, and his destiny. He rebuked the other thief and asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His kingdom. These words were a sign of repentance and simple faith. Salvation for the man was immediate. He knew that day where he would spend eternity.***

***Realizing that we are sinners and placing our trust in Jesus’ death and resurrection assures us that we can immediately know where we will spend our eternal tomorrows when we slip behind the parted curtain. To prepare for tomorrow, trust Jesus today.”***

**Erwin Lutzer**