

1. Introduction: A study in different responses to Christ on the cross. What is your response?
2. The First Thief: Rejection and Mocking of Jesus (23:39)
3. The Second Thief: Confession of Sin and Faith in Jesus (23:40-42; Prov 9:10;)
4. Jesus' Promise: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise"
(23:43; 2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:21-23)

"Some saw Jesus raise the dead, and did not believe. The robber sees Him being put to death, and yet believes."
—Alfred Plummer

"Both were equally near to Christ. Both saw and heard all that happened, during the six hours that He hung on the cross. Both were dying men, and suffering acute pain. Both were alike wicked sinners, and needed forgiveness. Yet one died in his sins, as he had lived, hardened, impenitent, and unbelieving. The other repented, believed, cried to Jesus for mercy, and was saved." —J. C. Ryle

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. How do the different characters respond to Jesus' crucifixion?
2. How does the second thief's speech demonstrate his true faith in Christ? What specifically does he believe about Jesus?
3. What do we learn about the nature of salvation from Jesus' promise to the repentant thief?
4. What is your response to Jesus' crucifixion?