

THREE CROSSES THREE MEN



Luke 23:26-47

THREE CROSSES



- Of the three, one in the middle is most important
- Isaiah (*Isa 52:13 – 53:12*) drew picture of the crucifixion 700 years before it happened
 - Made Christ's cross most prominent in careful detail
 - Stated Jesus would be “numbered with the transgressors”
 - Two other crosses on which thieves were crucified not given same importance
- Luke's gospel (23:26-47) tells story behind three crosses
 - Rejection
 - Repentance
 - Redemption

BACKGROUND



- Cross has become a symbol
 - We see payment for our sins
 - Full price of redemption
- Words of Jesus' enemies, those crucified with Him, and His own words remind of facts concerning the one who died on the cross in the middle
 - Enemies and rulers—hatred, insults and sarcasm
 - With Him—one selfish and one rebuking & repentant
 - Jesus—love and forgiveness

CROSS OF REJECTION



- Not everyone saw Christ as redeemer
 - Troublemaker or imposter
 - Helpless king dying a hopeless death
- Summarizes all who reject Jesus—hurled insults and mockery
 - Listened to the crowd, rulers, and soldiers?
 - Experiences? Angry at the world?
 - Hiding a life of sin behind hatred?
- Serves as our warning
 - Don't listen to the crowds—still ridiculing Jesus
 - Satan at work

MAN OF REJECTION



- Thief was hanging on the cross and could blaspheme all he wanted—he was condemned to death
- Represents world that wants to be saved without acknowledging the judgment
 - If You are the *Messiah*, take away the judgment; let us escape and You with us
 - Show us what you can do

CROSS OF REPENTANCE



- Thief on this cross saw that Jesus was innocent
 - Initially, made fun of Jesus but was led to see truth
 - Not necessarily a nicer guy than other criminal
 - Didn't listen to crowds, soldiers, or his experiences
 - Rebuked the other criminal
- This cross convicts us of our sins and connects us to His cross of redemption

MAN OF REPENTANCE



- This thief was willing to suffer for the evil deeds he had done so he could be freed from them
(*Luke 23:40-41*)
- Freed from his burden of sin through acknowledgment and judgment
- Received assurance that he would be with Jesus in paradise (*Luke 23:42-43*)

CROSS OF REDEMPTION



- God chose his Son to bring salvation to mankind
(*Col 1:19-20*)
- God balanced the books of His justice on it
- God planned to let his anger at sin and all of sin's consequences to fall on Jesus (*Gal 3:13*)
- Jesus bore our sins in his body on the tree...
(*1 Pet 2:24*)

MAN OF REDEMPTION



- None other than Jesus Himself
- Took our sins on His body—was made sin for us
- God did what was impossible for the law—He condemned sin in Christ's flesh (*Rom 8:3*)
- When this work was finished, Jesus gave up his spirit

THREE CROSSES



- One holds a man dying for sin (redemption)
 - One holds a man dying in sin (rejection)
 - One holds a man dying to sin (repentance)
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- We are allowed to see and hear the message of the cross in the middle, the cross of redemption