



What About The Thief On The Cross?

Lk.23:39-43



I. Context

One robber, justly crucified **. . . mocks Jesus, 39**

- Criminal has no room to criticize another criminal
- **Some would rather break than bend**
- Not even death brings repentance

One robber mocks Jesus, 39

Second robber, 40

- Mt.27:44, once joined in mockery – now rebukes fellow criminal
 - Dying man should set own house in order
 - One event, different reactions . . .

One reviles
Other repents

Disciples – fear
Robber – faith

“We deserve our punishment; This Man did nothing wrong” (41)

- “Lord” (42): knows Him / His claims
 - Remember me...WHEN...You come ...into Your KINGDOM
 - We expect robber to share **cross** w. Christ, **not kingdom**
- Lord: “I assure you” (43):

With Me

TODAY

In Paradise



I. Context

II. Conduct

What makes this robber famous?

- **Changes mind (repents) 40; Mt.27:44**
- **Censures other robber, 40**
- **Challenges other robber, 40: *Fear God!***
- **Condemns other robber: hypocrite, 40**
- **Concedes, 41: admits guilt, just deserts**
- **Confirms Lord's claims, 41-42**
- **Clears Jesus of wrong, 41-42; defends**
- **Confesses Jesus ('Lord'), 41-42**

Robber confesses Jesus, 41-42

- Jesus: not only innocent, but righteous
- Robber believes His claims
 - Savior, 35, 37, 39
 - Messiah, 35
 - Chosen of God, 35
 - King, 37-38
 - Son of God, 22:70
 - Lord, 20:42-44

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- **Certainty: believes Jesus will reign, 42**

Robber's certainty of Jesus, 41-42

1. Remember me. Expects action
 - Why does sinner want righteous King to remember him?
 - Ec.12:1
2. When You come...
 - Not 'if' of doubt, but 'when'
3. Into Your kingdom: [22:16, 18, 29-30; 23:51]

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- **Craves companionship with Lord, 42**



I. Context

II. Conduct

III. Celebration

What does Jesus promise this man?

■ TODAY

No reply to other sinner's taunts.

Immediately grants this man's request.

■ WITH ME

Asked to be remembered.

Jesus grants gift better than life, Ph.1

■ IN PARADISE

OT: Garden of Eden

Ec.12:7; Lk.16:23 ; Ac.2:27



I. Context

II. Conduct

III. Celebration

IV. Conclusions

1. Robber not saved by faith alone

Ja.2:14-17, 21-24; Hb.11:17

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Challenges other robber, 40: Fear God!

Condemns other robber: hypocrisy, 40

Concedes, 41: admits guilt, just deserts

Confirms His claims, defends Him 41-42

Clears Jesus of wrong, 41-42

Confesses Jesus, 41-42

Certainty: Jesus will reign, 42

Craves companionship w. Lord, 42

1. Robber not saved by faith alone

2. Baptism is condition of salvation

Mk.16:16; Ac.2:38; 22:16, etc.

Believe...

Mk.16:16

Repent...

Ac.2:38

Baptism

Ac.22:16

**Belief and repentance did not
wash away sins without baptism**

- 
1. Robber not saved by faith alone
 2. Baptism is condition of salvation

3. Was robber baptized?

Possibly – Mt.3:5-6

We do not know

- ✦ **Those who refused it, rejected God,
Lk.7:29-30**
- ✦ **Same principle true today, Ac.2:41**

1. Robber not saved by faith alone
2. Baptism is condition of salvation
3. Was robber baptized?

4. When was robber saved?

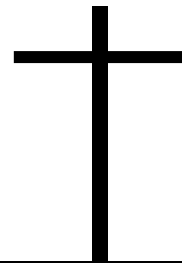
Before NT went into effect

✦ **Paralytic, Lk.5:20, 24**

✦ **Sinful woman, Lk.7:48**

✦ **Zacchaeus, Lk.19:9**

✦ **RYR, Lk.18:22**



Hb.9:
15-17

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✦ Hb.9:16-17

- 15 – covenant Religious context
- 16-17 – **testament** Legal context
- 18 – covenant Religious context

Will: made valid 'on basis of corpses' (when death has occurred).

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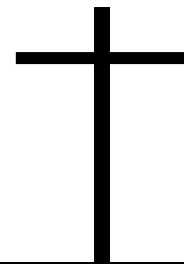
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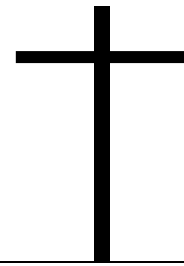
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Hb.9:
15-17

No income taxes

1
9
1
3

Are we exempt?

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3. Was robber baptized?
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5. What did the robber do?

Everything he could do on a cross

- ✦ **One who uses him to justify disobedience is **NOT** trying to be saved like him**
- ✦ **Robber: some of greatest faith in Bible**
- ✦ **Excuse-makers are not like him**
- ✦ **The only 'deathbed conversion' in NT**