

**12 14 2025**

Transcribed by [TurboScribe.ai](#). [Go Unlimited](#) to remove this message.

Luke chapter 23, Luke 23, once you find that, verse 32. I do want to thank those that are watching by internet. And again, just a blessing to have those watching by internet.

Please stand with me, Luke chapter 23, beginning in verse 32. I'm going to read quite a bit. In here, in verse 32, the Bible says, and there were also two other malefactors led with him to be put to death.

And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him and the malefactors, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment and cast lots.

And the people stood beholding, and the rulers also with them derided him, saying, he saved others, let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him and offering him vinegar, and saying, if thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. And a subscription also was written over him in letters of Greek and Latin and Hebrew.

This is the king of the Jews. And one of the malefactors, which were hanged, railed on him, saying, if thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, does not thou fear God, seeing thou art the same in the same condition, condemnation? Excuse me.

And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds. But this man had done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

And Jesus said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, today thou shalt thou be with me in paradise. Let's pray. Father, we thank you.

We thank you for all the blessings. We thank you for this Christmas season. But, Father, let us never forget why Jesus came on a rescue mission to save humanity by giving himself as the offering.

I ask you now, Lord, as we look into this passage of Scripture, Father, may you speak to every heart. May we truly understand the love of God. And, Father, may those who are wondering where they would go, Father, I pray today that they would place their faith in the work of the cross.

And this I pray in Jesus' name. Amen. Well, you can be seated at this time.

And here we find Jesus and being crucified along with two other thieves, as the Bible calls them, malefactors here. But one of the things that is striking, the love of Jesus on the cross. And as we

see that in verse 34, how he cried out and forgave those who abused him, tortured him, and nailed him to a cross.

And I began to think about that this week, this weekend really, and I began to really understand just the love of God for each and every one of us. And we find it in this passage of Scripture. And Jesus did not deserve to be crucified.

Amen. He was without sin. He did not do anything.

Matter of fact, he was speaking truth when he said he was God. But yet they crucified him. And even though both the thieves next to him who were condemned alongside him, Jesus did, even on the cross, show mercy by receiving one of them.

And we're going to look at that. And just so you know that this passage of Scripture, being crucified with two malefactors, this was fulfilled prophecy. In Isaiah 53, verse 12, the Bible says, And he was numbered with the transgressors, and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgression.

So think of that. This was being fulfilled. We also know as Psalm 22 was fulfilled as far as the crucifixion of the Lord.

And this was hundreds of years before they even invented crucifixion, amen, as a torture and death sentence. So how did this condemned criminal become a broken, repentant sinner who humbly asked Jesus from the cross to forgive him? How did he do that? Well, we're going to look at this passage of Scripture, and we're going to see right in this passage of Scripture how it came about. And number one, he witnessed Christ's mercy.

Look again with me on verse 20, I mean, I'm sorry, verse 34 of Luke chapter 23. He witnessed Christ's mercy. Here the Bible says, Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

And they parted his raiment and cast lots. Here Jesus, as he went all night being abused, and we spoke about this, the young group that we meet on Friday night, how he was tortured, and how even what we depict today, even the movie, The Passion of Christ, doesn't even touch the amount of suffering that Jesus had while he was on the cross. And how many have seen that movie? Yes, I remember when I first saw that, it was in the theaters when it first came out, and how so many of us that were in the theater, how so many kind of like were teared up.

And for at least 10 minutes, nobody moved. Everyone was in shock. And at that time, you couldn't even hear anything.

Nobody was talking. Everybody stayed in their seats after the movie was done. Shocked to seeing what Jesus went through.

But yet he even went through worse than that that they depict. And yet Jesus, on the cross, he

says in verse 34 of Luke chapter 23, he says, Father, forgive them. Can you imagine that? And even today, I know a lot of us, people are always abusing us, disrespecting us.

And people, think of that. People who disrespect what we would call those who don't like us, can you imagine having forgiveness for them? And we see it here right with Jesus, how he forgave. And I believe that when this thief heard Jesus pray to the Father to forgive those soldiers who had mocked him and beaten him, I believe that's when it started to change.

I believe it's when that happened, he began to think in his heart, what kind of man is this that would even forgive his enemies? It also says in Romans chapter 5 verse 8, and I love this passage of Scripture, when I first came to Christ, I recognized that God loved me. And here in Romans chapter 5 verse 8, the Bible says, but God commended his love toward us, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. What a blessing.

I began to look at my own life and recognize that all my life, all the sin I did, all the things that I've done, that God, even though I was a sinner running all the way to hell, God forgave me. But I needed a call on him, amen? I needed to recognize what he did for me on the cross. I was 34 years old when I came to Christ.

It's exciting to see young people coming to Christ. I can't even imagine those who are young children coming to Christ and having a whole life walking with God, having an intimate relationship with God. But yet we find that it says in Romans 5 verse 8, God commended his love toward us.

How did he do that when he sent Christ to die on that cross? And it was the love of Christ and the forgiveness of the soldiers that caused this thief, I believe, to change his heart and began to look at Christ with faith. We know that it says in 1 John chapter 4 verse 19, we love him because he first loved us, amen? And I began to really look at Christ. And when I came to the Lord at 34, and how the Lord just poured his peace and love into my heart and changed me.

And I believe that this thief began to see the love of God through the death of the Savior when he was on that cross and how he stood on that cross and loving those soldiers. Just what a thing. And I'm here to tell you, listen, if there's any hatred in your heart, you need to get rid of it.

You need to work as much as you can to remove that hate for somebody else. Because that's, listen, that's not of God. God wants you to love.

God wants you to forgive. The greatest thing is when somebody is so filled. And listen, we all go through this when we're hurt, when we're in pain, and when someone does something to us.

It's so normal. It's part of us, the normal part of us to begin to have anger and hate towards somebody. But yet God says love your enemies, amen? I believe you could only truly do that when the love of God has been poured in your heart.

It also says in 1 John 4, verse 9, in this was manifest the love of God toward us because that God sent his only begotten son into the world that we might live through him. What an amazing thing. And we see this on the cross.

We see this with a male factor. This thief who looked at Jesus, who was just railing at Jesus at the same time that he was on the cross. And it's amazing how he had the heart change.

1 John chapter 4, verse 10 says this, hearing his love, not that we love God, but that he loved us and sent his son to be a propitiation for our sins. And what does that word propitiation mean? It means the offering. You know, in the Old Testament, we would have, the Jewish people would have to bring an offering for their sin.

When they recognized their sin, they would bring an offering. And that offering would be what? That God would place the judgment and the death penalty on the innocent animal instead of you. And that was all a picture of what Jesus would one day do for you and I. And we see here in the Christmas story, we see that God sent his only begotten son, the son of God who left heaven and what? And was taking a human body through the virgin birth, all so he could live, all so he could teach, all so he could prove who he was and then go to a cross and die, die for the sinner, one who knew no sin, one who was filled with love.

And it's amazing when we look at that. Secondly, I believe that this thief, he recognized his sin. Look with me again in Luke chapter 23.

Look what it says in verse 40, Luke chapter 23, verse 40. And here we find it says, But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Does not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? What's going on here? The Bible says at first they both railed on him. Both these thieves were railing on Jesus and we see this in the other gospels.

Turn with me to Mark, I mean Matthew. Look what it says in Matthew chapter 27, Matthew chapter 27. And here's Matthew's, what he writes of the same situation.

He puts in verse 44, says, The thieves also which were crucified with him cast the same in his teeth. So both of these thieves were at the first point were railing on him. So this repentant thief was just like everyone else.

It also says it in Mark. Turn with me to Mark, Mark chapter 15. We see where it says it again.

Mark chapter 15. Look again in the verse 31. It says, Likewise also the chief priests mocking and said among themselves with the scribes.

He saved others. Himself he cannot save. Verse 32.

Let Christ the king of Israel descend now from the cross that we may see and believe. And look at here. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

See how it says they? They both were. So think of this. I believe when they were on the cross,

this thief was just like everyone else railing on Jesus saying, come on down.

You call yourself the Christ, the Messiah of Israel. You call yourself the king. Come on down.

But yet I believe the turning point is when Jesus from the cross says, father, forgive them. For they know not what they do. I believe that was the point.

The thieves had all this hate and anger in their heart, even though they were rightly being condemned to death. But yet one thief starts to realize Jesus is much different. And this thief admitted that he was guilty before man and God.

And he recognized and admitted his own sin. Think of that. He says he deserved to be where he's at.

But Jesus didn't. He recognized his sin. You know, that's the first point.

The first thing you must do in order to be saved. You must recognize that you're lost. Amen.

So many times when I talk to people and we get into a spiritual conversation and, you know, if I asked them, if you died today, where would you go? And some of them would say, well, I'd go to heaven. I'm a good person. Amen.

Not knowing. And they say, well, I don't do anything wrong. I remember having a sweet old lady.

She was so sweet. And she said she never sinned before. And I, you know, I just bit my tongue.

And I'm just in my mind thinking, man, you're over 75 years old. You never sinned? But think of that. Think of a person today who, what does he do? He regards his goodness.

Amen. But yet this thief, he recognized his sin. Also, he believed who Jesus was.

Turn back to Luke chapter 23 and look at verse 42. Luke chapter 23, verse 42. He believed who Jesus was.

He says here in verse 42, he said, and he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. See the change in his life? We see in other gospels he was reeling at Jesus. But there was a change of heart.

Again, I can't put my finger on it, but if you look before he comes to this, he sees Jesus praying for those soldiers. Amen. And I believe as he was looking, he took great faith to trust this dying king, because that's exactly what he's saying here.

And he says here in verse 42, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. He's now beginning to recognize who Jesus is. He's the Messiah, the king of Israel.

He's starting to recognize by faith who Jesus truly was, the crucified Christ. And while on the

cross, maybe the thief began to remember the things that the Lord did in Israel during his earthly ministry before he went to the cross. Look at Matthew chapter 20.

Matthew chapter 20. And there's so many things that Jesus did to prove who he was and to show his love. But yet when we look at Matthew chapter 20, look what it says in verse 29.

And it says, as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him. Followed who? Jesus. And behold, two blind men sitting by the wayside, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out saying, have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.

And the multitude rebuked them because they should hold their peace, but they cried the more saying, have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David. And Jesus stood still and called them and said, what will ye that I shall do unto you? And they say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. So Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes and immediately their eyes received sight and they followed him.

Can you imagine the multitudes that were walking, seeing all the miracles that Jesus did right before their eyes? But yet the religious crowd, the scribes and the Pharisees, they hated Jesus. They wanted him crucified because all those in Israel were turning to Jesus as the Messiah. Also look at John.

Turn all the way to the Gospel of John, John chapter 12. And I believe this speaks to the turning point on why they crucified Christ. And here in John chapter 12, look what it says in verse 9. This is amazing when you read this.

In John chapter 12, verse 9, the Bible says, much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also whom he had raised from the dead. Can you imagine that? Here we find that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead for days in the grave. And not only were they following Jesus, they wanted to see Lazarus.

They wanted to see the one that Jesus called out of the grave. And look what else it says in verse 10. But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away and believed on Jesus.

Boy, they had to stop this. Amen? They had to stop this Jesus. They were even planning on killing Lazarus.

How dare he make one rise from the dead? Amen? And I believe this was the turning point. They hated Jesus, but he went too far when he raised Lazarus. They needed him killed.

Too many people were turning to Jesus. And then also think of this. This thief on the cross living in Israel might have heard all these things, might have even seen these things.

Might have even seen Lazarus alive again. And today you and I by faith we trust in the Lord and

he changes us. And here this thief on the cross who was railing at Jesus at the beginning began a heart change.

And then he what? He calls on Jesus by faith, believing that he's the Christ, asking that if he could go into the kingdom. And my last one here is he called on him for salvation. Look again in Luke chapter 23 verse 42.

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. Do you realize what he's saying? He's about to what? Die. But yet he knows that the just, those of Israel, the just will be resurrected to what? Go into the kingdom.

This is what they were waiting for. And yet this thief knew he was going to give up his ghost on the side of Jesus. And he turns to him and he says, remember me.

That reminds me. That reminds me where years back reading the scriptures, knowing that I was a sinner. For the first time, knowing that Jesus died for me.

That's why he went to the cross. He went to the cross to pay my sin. And I remember reading the same scripture, Romans chapter 10 verse 13.

This is what gripped my heart when I was feeling the condemnation of my own sin, knowing that I would die and be headed to hell. And it was Romans 10, 13, when from my heart I cried out to the Lord Jesus. And Romans 10, 13 says this, for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Amen. Well, that's exactly what this thief did from the cross. Amen.

**This file is longer than 30 minutes.**

**[Go Unlimited](#) at [TurboScribe.ai](#) to transcribe files up to 10 hours long.**