

Jesus Offers Forgiveness

Luke 23:40-49

What happened to this thief's heart?

Four qualities that result in forgiveness.

1. Forgiveness begins with Fearing God.

*But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? **Luke 23:40***

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. **Psalm 111:10***

*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. **1 John 4:18***

*Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. **1 Corinthians 6:18***

*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20***

Two Kinds of Sinners

1. God-fearers
2. God-Sneerers

He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son

of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him.

1 Kings 16:31

“Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.”

“The poison of vipers is on their lips.”

*“Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” **Romans 3:13-14***

“Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know.”

*“There is no fear of God before their eyes.” **Romans 3:15-18***

2. The Thief Observed Jesus.

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*He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. **Isaiah 53:7***

A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.

Luke 23:27-28

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." **John 10:18**

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” **Luke 23:34**

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.”

Luke 23:35

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” **Luke 23:36**

There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the Jews. **Luke 23:38**

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats.

1 Peter 2:22-23a

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!" **Matthew 27:54**

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." **Luke 23:40-41**

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3. The Thief Admitted his Guilt.

What happened to this thief's heart?

4. The Thief Requested Forgiveness.

What happened to this thief's heart?

The closer you get to the perfection of Jesus Christ, the more you're going to be aware of your own imperfection.

The closer you get to the holiness of Christ, the more you're going to be aware of your need for forgiveness and your total dependence upon Christ.

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:42-43

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Three Crosses at Calvary

1. **Redemption:** Jesus dying **for** sin.
2. **Rebellion:** thief dying **in** sin.
3. **Repentance:** thief dying **to** sin.

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.*

*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.*