

Speaker: Nigel Colgan
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Reading: Luke 23:32-33, 39-43.

This passage tells us about lots of different people.

Herod – One who wanted to see Jesus perform a miracle but wanted Him put to death.

Pilate – One who sentenced Him to death.

Centurion – Realised He was a righteous man.

Jospeh of Arimathea – One who buried Him.

Lord Jesus Christ – on the cross

Two others crucified with Him.

Looking at the 3 there was very little would distinguish them. They were all about to die a horrible death. In reality, they were very different and their outcome was very different.

One malefactor did much wrong, warranted death. Looked on the Lord Jesus, maybe not knowing who He was. Looked on Him with absolute disdain.

Jesus – lived 33 years, spent 3 years going round Galilee, did many miracles.

What relevance does this have to us?

We are “[condemned already](#)” (John 3:18). The Bible condemns to eternal death and separation from God.

Why? Need to go back to beginning. God made Adam and Eve, the garden was perfect until the serpent came in and they disobeyed God and put enmity between them and God. We are all “[born in sin and shapen in iniquity](#)” (Psalm 51:5).

At the end of life it won't matter how people see you but you must stand before a holy God.

God is a God of love but He is absolutely righteous and must punish sin. He has provided the way, through the death of Christ on Calvary, that we can become a child of God.

Are you doubting tonight?

The Lord Jesus is the Son of God and the only one who can save.

With the Saviour so close he still looked on Him and said “If”.

On the other side was another malefactor. He realised that the Lord Jesus was different. He realised He was the Christ. This malefactor acknowledged what he was. He acknowledged what he deserved and realised the Lord Jesus could meet his need.

Need to admit what we are - “[All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags](#)” (Isa 64:6), “[All have sinned](#)” (Rom 3:23).

There is no degrees of sin, it doesn't matter. In the sight of a Holy God we are all sinners.

The Lord Jesus is sufficient to meet your need. The only one who can meet your need.

(John 3:16) God's only begotten Son – God's gift from heaven.

“[The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin](#)” (1 John 1:7).

The man on the centre cross was spotless. The only one who was not condemned for sin.

All you have to do is come.

Acts 16 – Paul is in prison in Philippi, earthquake, jailer would ask “[What must I do to be saved?](#)” (Acts 16:30). The answer is the same today, “[Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ...](#)” (Acts 16:31).

Just having a knowledge is not good enough.

You have to realise your need, what God has done and believe Him.

It is all to do between you and God.

The cross had lasting effect. The Lord Jesus Christ was buried, He rose again and is tonight with His Father in heaven. The first malefactor is in hell, suffering punishment for what he has done. The second is in heaven with Christ where he will be forever.