

Response to Jesus

Luke 23: 32-43 “Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 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.” 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.” There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” 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.” 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.”

Response to Jesus

Two General Responses to Our Suffering

1. Rail Against God – ‘if you are so great, all powerful, loving, why am I in this mess?’
2. Acknowledge our Situation To God – ‘I am a sinner, don’t deserve anything, deeply need your mercy in my time of desperation, but not my will – yours’

Lesson From Two Thieves about Responding to Jesus

- Simple Observations:
 - both suffering crucifixion
 - both guilty of crime – vs. 41

Response to Jesus

- both see the sign, hear Jesus words vs. 38,34
- both want desperately to be saved from death

* Two Categories Evident in These Thieves

- First Thief approach – if it's true prove it
- 'Aren't you the Christ – save yourself & us'
- no brokenness, acknowledgment, guilt, penitence, humility – Jesus simply a possible way out of death.
- Lessons from the second thief

Response to Jesus

1. Does Not Get Deceived With All the Talk

- 'this man has done nothing wrong'
- not debating how God should be acting

2. He Fears God

- 'do you not Fear God?'

3. He Admits His Crime and Punishment

- 'we are punished justly, getting what our deeds deserve'
- no desire to save face, trouble I am in is mine

Response to Jesus

4. Accepted His Punishment as Deserved

- 'we are punished justly'
- attitude of not having 'rights' to demand from God

5. Acknowledged Jesus Righteousness

- 'this man has done nothing wrong'
- matters a lot – Jesus is faultless – acceptable sacrifice

6. Acknowledged Jesus Is A King

- 'remember me when you come into your kingdom'
- responding to Jesus role & position

Response to Jesus

7. Pleads for Help

- 'remember me'

• Both thieves want to be saved from death – but how different their request

- save yourself, save me

- remember me – your will be done

To the Penitent Thief Jesus Promises

- 'today you will be with me in paradise'

Response to Jesus

So What

1. Check Your Attitude and Approach
 - Is Jesus just driving the getaway car, or is he Lord
 - am I full of expectations and demands
2. Reflect on Your response to Suffering and Death
 - repentant, fearing God, allowing His way
3. Remember Jesus Promise
 - today you will be with me.....
 - give thanks