

## LUKE 23:32-43

10 APRIL 2022

ICE BREAKER: Describe a time where you received good advice OR a time where you received bad advice.

### GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 32 & 39-41) With Jesus, two thieves are led out to be crucified. Some question God when bad things happen to good people. For these thieves, this describes a time when bad things happen to bad people. As one thief confessed, “we are **getting what our deeds deserve.**”

Suffering and facing death, the thieves pleaded with Jesus. One cried out for Jesus to save Himself and them. The other pleaded with Jesus to receive him in the Kingdom hereafter. In times of crisis, we often make **vows** and **promises** to God of **personal change.**

1. In a **crisis** or **life-threatening situation**, describe a **vow** or **promise** you **made to God.**

(Read verses 39-43) Notice the cries of distress from the thieves on the cross. One thief challenged Jesus to prove Himself as the Messiah and save all their lives. In effect he cried out, “If you are God, get me out of this mess.”

The second thief confessed he got himself into this mess, but that he was going to **pay in full** for the **consequences** of his actions. The second thief was more concerned not with the **mess in his circumstances**, but the **mess in his heart**...and the consequences of that in the life hereafter.

Both cries of the heart were sincere and passionate. Yet **Jesus only answered one** of those requests.

2. Examining these thieves’ heart cries, what type of **prayers** do you think **move the hand of God?**

(Read verses 32-33) Probably on any other day of their former criminal life, the thieves would not have noticed Jesus or had time to hear His Gospel. Yet, under public humiliation, suffering torture on the cross, and facing imminent death, the thieves came face to face with Jesus.

The **pain, sins** and **consequences** of those sins **brought them to** a personal encounter with **Jesus.**

3. How has **God used pain** or the **consequences** of your sins to **bring you to Jesus?**

(Read verse 38-43) The second thief is in the midst of **two voices**, with one **thief** on one side and a **Savior** on the other. The voice of the thief **does not “fear God”**, prefers **shortcuts**, and **wants to be rescued** from the consequences of his actions.

The second voice represents God. The voice of this person calls us to **pay our actions in full**, no matter how painful that may be. This person is always there for us, **leading us to God’s good plan** for our lives.

4. Who has represented the **voice of the thief** or the voice of the **Savior** in your life?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

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### PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)

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