

the three crosses

face to face | week six

post falls campus | march 26th & 29th | pat lessard



Two Perspectives Toward Jesus

Luke 23:32–33 NLT

³²Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. ³³When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.

Luke 23: 34-38 NLT

³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. ³⁵The crowd watched, and the leaders scoffed. “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” ³⁶The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. ³⁷They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸A sign was fastened above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.”

Luke 23:39–43 ESV

³⁹One of the criminals who was hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The First Thief | In Denial & Proud

His perspective was:

- Arrogant instead of humble
- Offended instead of receptive
- Mocking instead of seeking mercy

The Second Thief | Honest & Humble

Suddenly, the thief’s perspective changed, and he saw three things clearly.

He saw himself clearly:

- “We indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds.”
- No excuses.
- No blaming.
- Just honest repentance.

He saw Jesus clearly:

- “This man has done nothing wrong.”
- Everyone else saw a criminal.

- He saw innocence.

He saw the kingdom clearly:

- “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

The Righteous Robber:

- He was not baptized.
- He did not join a church.
- He did not clean up his life.
- He did not perform good works.

What We Have “In Christ”

P – pardon – Our sins are completely forgiven. (1 John 1:9)

A – adoption – We are welcomed into God’s family. (John 1:12-13)

C – citizenship – We belong to the kingdom of heaven. (Philippians 3:20)

T – transformation – God begins changing us from the inside out. (Titus 3:3-7)

Their Choice Led to Their Destination:

- Heaven or Hell
- Jesus or Self
- Saved or Judged

Bad Theology Has Real Victims:

- Heaven and hell are not real places
- I’ve done too much wrong for God to forgive me
- Everyone gets in, no matter what
- You must be all cleaned up before coming to God
- Your good works must outweigh your bad ones
- Good works earn salvation
- Everyone is automatically a child of God

Practical Application:

Hummingbird or Vulture - you’ll find what you’re looking for.

- Which one are you more like?

God Is Patient

- Are you banking on it, or are you testing it?
- What you do with Jesus matters more than anything else.

Take Time To Pray

- Thank God for the PACT He has made possible for all who are “in Christ.”
- Pray also for others who need to know Jesus or come back to Jesus

