

A view from inside a tomb looking out at a sunrise over a landscape with three crosses on a hill. The scene is framed by the rough, dark stone walls of the tomb. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and the landscape. Three crosses are visible on a hill in the distance, silhouetted against the bright sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and hopeful.

The Second Saying of Jesus from The Cross
“Today you shall be with Me in Paradise”
Lk. 23:39-42

*“He is not here, for He is risen,
as He said...” Mt. 28:6*

Words from The Cross
Made Certain by the Resurrection
'Today you shall be with Me in Paradise'
Lk. 23:39-42

I. Two Different **Responses** To Jesus And His Crucifixion

A. **Rejection** Of Jesus cf Lk. 23:39

1. The Man Who Rejected Jesus Was A '**Malefactor**' / '**Criminal**' These Words Are Translations Of The Greek Word (κακῶργος); English Transliteration *kakorgos* Which Means ". . . *criminal, evil-doer, one who commits gross misdeeds and serious crimes.*" A *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* A Comparison With Mt. 27:38, 44 Reveals He Was A **Thief**
2. The Man Express His Rejection Of Jesus **Verbally**; The Word '**Railed**' And The Words '**Hurling Insults**' / '**Kept Deriding**' Are The Translations Of The Greek Verb (βλασφημέω); English Transliteration *blasphemeo*; *The Verb Is In The Imperfect Tense Form Expressing This Was Continual, Ongoing Action, Repeated Action In The Past*; The Word Means: "to speak in a disrespectful way, that **demeans, denigrates, maligns.**" A *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (i.e. as they continued hanging on the cross, this man repeatedly, over and over again shouted out abusive, insulting, contemptuous, ridiculing words at Jesus)* cf Mt. 27:41-44

B. **Reception** Of Jesus cf Lk. 23:40-42

1. *That Man Who Received Jesus Was Also A **Thief** cf Lk. 23:39; M7 27:38*
2. *The Man Who Received Jesus Had Previously **Rejected** And **Reviled** Him cf Mt. 27:44; Mk. 15:32*
3. The **Reason** One Of The Robbers Had A *Change Of Mind* And Received Jesus Instead Of Continuing To Reject Him Was *Possibly Due* To The Holy Spirit Using The **First** Words Of Jesus From The Cross: '*Father forgive them for they know not what they do*' And The Way Jesus Responded To His Mockers To **Convict** This Thief Of His Jesus' **Righteousness** And Of His Own Sinfulness cf Lk. 23:33-34; 1 Pet. 2:23 cf Jn. 16:7-11; Acts 16:14
4. The Man Expressed His *Reception* Of Jesus **Verbally** By **Rebuking** The Other Thief Who Rejected Jesus cf Lk. 23:40
 - a. His Response Indicates That The Other Thief Was **No Longer** Speaking For Him cf Mt. 27:44; Mk. 15:32

- b. *'Rebuked'* Is The Translation Of The Greek Verb (επιτιμῶω); English Transliteration *epitimao*; The Word Conveys The Idea That He Sternly **Warned** Him To Stop Mocking Jesus; The Word Is Defined: *"to speak strong disapproval of someone, rebuke, reprove, censure, also speak seriously, warn in order to prevent an action or bring one to an end."* *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Christian Literature* cf Mt. 20:31; Mk. 10:48; Lk. 17:3, 18:15, 39
- 5. The Man Expressed His *Reception* Of Jesus Verbally By **Acknowledging** His *Guilt* And Jesus' *Innocence* cf Lk. 23:41 cf 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26; 1 Pet. 1:19; 3:22; 1 Jn. 3:5
- 6. This Man Expressed His *Reception* Of Jesus By **Asking** Jesus To Remember Him When Jesus Comes Into His Kingdom cf Lk. 23:42
 - a. Three Things The Thief *Might Have* **Believed** About Jesus
 - 1) That Jesus Was The **King** Of The Jews cf Mt. 27:40, 43; Mk. 15:39; Lk. 23:34
 - 2) That Jesus Was The **Messiah** cf Mk. 15:32; Lk. 23:35, 39
 - 3) That Jesus Was The **Son** Of **God** cf Mt. 27:40, 43; Mk. 15:39; Lk. 23:34
 - b. Three Things The Thief **Definitely** Believed About Jesus
 - 1) That He Was **Innocent** cf Lk. 23:41
 - 2) That Jesus Could **Save** His Soul And Spirit And Grant Him **Entrance** Into His Kingdom cf Lk. 23:42
 - 3) That He Could Give Him **Life** After Dying cf Lk. 23:42
- II. The **Response** Of Jesus To The Man Who Received Him cf Lk. 23:43
 - A. Was An **Unconditional Promise** cf Lk. 23:43
 - B. **Exceeded** The Man's Request cf Lk. 23:43
 - 1. Not Only Would The Man Be Allowed Entrance Into The Kingdom, He Would Also Be Given The Privilege Of Being In The **Immediate Personal Presence** Of Jesus
 - 2. The Man Would Be **Personally** And **Immediately** With Jesus In Paradise
- III. Practical And Doctrinal Thoughts For Further **Reflection**
 - A. As Long As A Person Is Alive There Can Be **Hope** For His Or Her **Salvation**

- B. Those Who Once Rejected And Even Mocked The Lord Can **Change** Their Minds And **Believe** In Him cf Mt. 27:44; Mk. 15:32 cf Lk. 23:40-44; 1 Tim. 1:13-14
- C. Those Who Are Saved Were Involved In **Causing** The Sufferings And Shame Jesus Endured On The Cross cf 1 Pet. 3:23-24
- D. Salvation Involves An Individual And Personal **Decision** To **Believe** In Jesus Christ cf Acts 2:38-41; 8:30-37; 10:43; 16:30-34
- E. Salvation Is By **Grace** Alone Through **Faith** Alone In Jesus Christ Alone cf Acts 15:11; Rm. 3:24; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:7
- F. Salvation Is **Sure** Because It Is **Guaranteed** By The Word Of The Lord cf Lk. 23:43 cf Jn. 6:38-39; 10:28-29; Rm. 8:29-30, 33-39; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; Jude 1
- G. Those Who Die Believing In Jesus Christ Will Be **With** Him **Immediately** At The Moment Of Their Death cf Lk. 23:43; Acts 7:59; 2 Cor. 5:6-8; Philipp. 1:23; 2 Tim. 4:18
- H. The **Resurrection** Of Jesus Christ Assures Us Of The **Reality** Of *All Of these Things* cf Rm. 1:4; 2 Cor. 15:17-18