

Which Side of the Cross Are You On?

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I. The Bible says Jesus was crucified between two thieves.

- A. Luke 23:32-43 (NLG)
- B. Do I live my life as a giver, or do I live my life as a taker?
- C. Do I live my life surrendered to God's purpose for me?
 - 1. Jeremiah 29:11 (NLG) *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD.*
- D. Pastor Datt's translation, "I know the plans I have for me," declares Matthew.
- E. When we treat our lives as a possession rather than a gift, when we act as the owners of our lives rather than as recipients of a gift, we live as thieves!
 - 1. Luke 23:46 (NLG) *When Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last.*

II. What distinguishes one thief from the other?

- A. It's their reaction to Jesus.
 - 1. Luke 23:39 (NLG) *"So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!"*
 - 2. Luke 23:40-41 (NLG) ⁴⁰*"Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die?"* ⁴¹*We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong."*
 - 3. Luke 23:42 (NLG) *When he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."*
- B. Remember me!
 - 1. Luke 23:43 (NLG) *And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."*
- C. What is what the cross is all about! The gift of forgiveness.

III. The question today is, which side of the cross are you on?

- A. The good news is – you don't have to steal forgiveness!
- B. That's what Jesus longs for. It's what He died to give you!