

DEATH-BED CONVERSIONS
MARK 15:27, 32; LUKE 23:39-43 / 10-4-17 / WED.

I. WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY?

- A. Jesus predicted it—Luke 22:37.
- B. Isaiah’s prophecy is verified in the gospels.
 - 1. All four gospels confirm this— Mark 15:27.
 - 2. Both originally insulted Jesus along with everyone else--Mark 15:32.
 - 3. Luke alone, tells us of the death-bed conversion of one of these criminals.

II. WHAT DOES LUKE SAY ABOUT THE PENETENT CRIMINAL?

- A. Although both criminals originally insulted Jesus, only one of the two continued to do so?— Luke 23:39.
- B. The other criminal changed his mind about Jesus? How did it happen?
 - 1. First, he rebuked the other criminal for continuing to insult Jesus—Luke 23:40a.
Luke 23:40a
But the other criminal rebuked him.....
 - 2. Second, he revealed his belief in God and a coming judgment—Luke 23:40b.
Luke 23:40b
 **“Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence?”**
 - 3. Third, he confessed his sinfulness—Luke 23:41a.
Luke 23:41a
We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve.....
 - 4. Fourth, he confessed Jesus’ sinlessness—Luke 23:41b.
Luke 23:41b
 **But this man has done nothing wrong.”**

5. Fifth, he confessed his belief that Jesus would be raised from the dead to completely introduce God's Kingdom—Luke 23:42.

C. Jesus' responded in two ways to this man's confession.

1. First, Jesus told him his suffering would soon be over—Luke 23:43a.

Luke 23:43a

43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me....."

2. Second, Jesus told him he would be with him in heaven—Luke 23:43b.

Luke 23:43b

.....you will be with me in paradise."

III. WHY DID THIS CRIMINAL CHANGE?

A. As far as we know, neither of these criminals had any prior knowledge of Jesus.

B. So what changed this one?

1. First, he saw the sign.
2. Second, he heard the remarks the people had made in derision about Jesus.
3. Third, He watched how Jesus responded.
4. Fourth, he heard what Jesus said.

C. What does his death-bed conversion tell us?

1. First, salvation is for everyone, even criminals.
2. Second, salvation is critical and we can't afford to wait or think about it.
3. Third, salvation doesn't have to be preceded by cleaning up our lives first.
4. Fourth, salvation doesn't have to be followed by baptism and church membership even though it should be.

D. LESSONS FOR US.

A. First, we must share Jesus with others now because tomorrow may be too late.

B. Second, stop being so suspicious of death-bed conversions and jail-house conversions.

- C. Third, sometimes following Jesus requires a willingness to suffer and even die—John 16:33.