



Sermon series: The Last Words of Jesus  
Text: Luke 23:32-43  
Delivered: February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Salvation

**Big Idea: If we don't see ourselves as the thief on the cross, we will not find ourselves in Heaven!**

**The \_\_\_\_\_ on the Cross shows us that. . . (Vs. 32; 39-41)**

1. All our \_\_\_\_\_ is Inconsequential.
2. All our \_\_\_\_\_ is Inadequate. (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 8:7; Rom. 3:22-23)

"It is not until we are brought to see our total inability to save ourselves that we run to Jesus."

**The \_\_\_\_\_ from the Cross calls us to. . . (Vs. 42)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ who Jesus truly is.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ who you are and what you have done.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus alone.

"The dying thief had no good works either before or after conversion. There's no other explanation than that he. . .and we. . .are saved only by sovereign grace."

**The \_\_\_\_\_ because of the Cross gifts us with. . . (Vs. 43)**

1. A home in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Together with \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 73:25; Phil. 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:8; Jn. 14:2-3; 1 Thess. 4:17)

"No matter what you have achieved or how you've fallen short, Jesus loves you! He died for you! He took your place in the courtroom of God's justice and He has won LIFE for you. . .eternal life! But it's ONLY through Him!"

*How does the cancel culture we are experiencing today give insight into how things may have developed in the trial and condemnation of Jesus?*

*What was your first thought when you heard the big idea from this message: "Unless you see yourself as the thief on the cross, you will not find yourself in heaven."? What are your thoughts when you hear of evil people like Jeffrey Dahmer receiving God's forgiveness?*



*Do you identify more with those who lean on their goodness to gain God's approval or with those who have a keen sense of unworthiness of God's grace? What leads you to feel that way? How does the Gospel provide hope for the career criminal and conviction for the career church-goer?*

*What are the truths about Jesus that you think a person needs to believe in order to be saved? What did the thief on the cross know and believe about Jesus? Does that inform, change, or confirm what you think a person needs to believe about Jesus to be saved?*

*What does fully trusting in Jesus for salvation look like?*

*If you could go to heaven, but Jesus wouldn't be there would you still want to go? Why or why not?*

*With your CARE group take a moment to talk about and rejoice in the salvation Jesus gives to us freely through faith.*

**For further reflection:**

Watch this video describing the wonderful compassion of Christ in our salvation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dMwu1rhTCQ>

**Further Reading:**

**The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out** by Brennan Manning  
**God is the Gospel** by John Piper