

On the Cross

Matthew 27:31-44; Mark 15:22-32; Luke 23:32-43

Tramp, tramp. Tramp, tramp. Can you hear the sound of soldiers' feet? A large group of people are walking up the road. They are climbing the hill of Calvary: angry rulers of Israel and noisy people from Jerusalem. Three men walk in the middle, guarded by soldiers. They will soon be hanged on a cross: two of the men are dangerous thieves who steal things, but the third is Jesus.

He is not a dangerous thief! No, He has only done good. But, now, see Him bruised and bleeding, struggling up the hill. He must carry the heavy beam of his cross to the top of Calvary's hill. He must...but He can't.

"You! Over there!" The rough soldiers call out to a stranger who is also walking along the road. The soldiers don't want to help Jesus; they will make this stranger help. Hoisting the heavy beam, the soldiers lay it on the stranger's shoulders. He must carry it up the hill for Jesus.

At the top of the hill, the soldiers take the clothes from Jesus and the two thieves. They nail the men to three crosses and stand the crosses up for everyone to see. What shame for the Lord Jesus who had never done anything wrong. What pain for Him to hang and die on a cross. What great fear and sadness in his heart as God his father punishes Him for his people's sins.

The rulers of Israel laugh at the Lord Jesus; they mock Him, and tell Him to come down from the cross, if He can. Suddenly, a thief hanging on one of the other crosses asks Jesus for something. He asks Jesus to remember him, to make a place for him, in his kingdom in heaven.

What will the Lord Jesus say? Will He let this bad man come into heaven? Oh, yes. The thief is sorry for his sins. "Today," Jesus tells him, "you will be with Me in paradise, in heaven."

How happy the thief is! He is a sinner and must go to hell when he dies. But now the Lord Jesus' blood has washed his sins away and he can go to heaven to live there with his Saviour! How happy this makes the dying man.



1. Jesus had to die on the...what? Who were the other men that would also be hanged on a cross?
2. Could Jesus carry the cross up the hill by Himself? Who helped Him?
3. Were both thieves sorry for their sins? Did they both go to heaven?
4. When would the dying thief go to live with Jesus in heaven?
5. The thief asked Jesus for something important. What was it? Just like the thief was a sinner, we are also sinners. May we ask Jesus for the same thing?

Need question with Bible reference