

2 Types Of Thieves

March 15, 2026

Luke 23:32-46

2 Types Of People In The World

- I. **The 2 types of people are**
 - A. Winners & losers
 - B. Leaders & followers
 - C. Givers & takers
 - D. Lovers & haters
 - E. Workers & moochers
- II. **In God's economy**
 - A. Saved & lost
 - B. Life & death
 - C. Sheep & goats
 - D. Wheat & weeds
 - E. Those who are in & those who are out
- III. **On the day of Messiah's crucifixion**
 - A. 3 people on the hill called Golgatha (Aramaic) Calvary (Latin)
 - 1. One thief who died in his sin
 - 2. One thief died without sin (removed from him)
 - 3. One who died for their sin
- IV. **What Heaven saw that day**
 - A. A Savior offering grace
 - B. A sinner receiving grace
 - C. A sinner rejecting grace
 - D. 2 men - same condition
 - 1. Both equally guilty
 - 2. Both equally condemned
 - 3. Both equally close to Jesus
- V. **Same situation different responses**
 - A. One thief says
 - 1. "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself & save us."
 - 2. Wanted deliverance without devotion
 - 3. Wanted a miracle without a Savior
 - 4. Wanted to escape the cross but not turn from sin
 - 5. Many are in this camp
 - a. Wanting God to prove Himself
 - 6. One gets it, one doesn't
 - 7. Two destinations await
 - a. Paradise
 - b. Hell
- VI. **How a dying thief found eternal life**
 - A. Behold the evidence
 - 1. Heard the prayer, "Father forgive"
 - 2. He knew Barabbas was set free
 - 3. Heard Pilate's verdict: "I find no fault"
 - 4. The day was growing dark at noon
 - 5. He saw before him - Psalm 22
 - B. Believed what he heard & saw
 - 1. The miracles Jesus had done

- 2. The shouts of Hosanna
- 3. The sign above His head
- C. Broadcast his convictions
 - 1. Do you not fear God?
 - 2. We get what we deserve
 - 3. This man has done nothing wrong (Jesus is innocent)
 - 4. Something opened the eyes of the thief
- D. Beseeched the Lord
 - 1. Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom
 - 2. He is not asking for
 - a. Release
 - b. Changed circumstances
 - c. Be understood
 - d. Temporary change
 - e. Temporary benefit
 - f. He is thinking about his soul
 - g. His eternal destination
 - 3. Only one calling Jesus "Lord" that day is a dying thief
 - a. Not Rome
 - b. Not religious leaders
 - c. Not even disciples
 - 4. A short prayer from the heart
 - a. He recognizes his own sin
 - b. He recognizes Jesus
 - c. He believes
 - d. He calls out
 - e. He is saved
 - 5. Believes the Lord
 - a. No other comment after this

- b. He embraced the grace - rested in it
- c. Believers (need to) rest in what Jesus promised

VII. The (blessed) response of Messiah Jesus

- A. Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise
 - 1. Jesus came to save the sinner
 - 2. What saves us is faith alone in Jesus alone
- B. This thief couldn't do anything but believe Jesus would rescue him (no "works" could be done)
- C. His circumstances did not change, but his destination did
- D. A thief believed and Jesus responded with grace, a gift, and glory (awaiting)
- E. When Jesus declared "Into thy hands I commend my Spirit"

VIII. The take away

- A. These 2 thieves represent all humanity
 - 1. Both heard voice of Jesus
 - 2. Both saw His suffering
 - 3. Both died next to the same Savior
- B. One received grace, one rejected it
- C. One died mocking, the other died trusting
- D. One is in Paradise, the other is not

**Which Describes You?
You Are One Or The Other**