



The Power
of the
CROSS

What causes a man to change?

- **2 Peter 3:3-6** *“knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.”*

What causes a man to change?

- 2 Peter 3:3-6
- Luke 12:18 *“So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’”*

What caused the thief to change?

- How does a man respond to intense suffering?
- Especially when the one suffering only thinks of others?
- **Luke 23:27-31** *“And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning to them, said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!’ Then they will begin ‘TO SAY TO THE MOUNTAINS, “FALL ON US!” AND TO THE HILLS, “COVER US!” ’ For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?’”*

What caused the thief to change?

- How does a man respond to intense suffering?
- Especially when the one suffering only thinks of others?
- Luke 23:27-31
- 1 Peter 2:21-23 *“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ‘WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH’; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously”*

What caused the thief to change?

- How does a man respond to intense suffering?
- Especially when the one suffering only thinks of others?
- The thief saw the intense hatred of the Jewish leaders?
- **Luke 23:35** *“And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, ‘He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God.’”*

What caused the thief to change?

- How does a man respond to intense suffering?
- Especially when the one suffering only thinks of others?
- The thief saw the intense hatred of the Jewish leaders?
- Luke 23:35
- Matthew 27:39-44 "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, "I am the Son of God.'" Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing."

What caused the thief to change?

- How does a man respond to intense suffering?
- Especially when the one suffering only thinks of others?
- The thief saw the intense hatred of the Jewish leaders?
- The thief saw that even in Jesus' final moments, He turned to heaven on behalf of those killing him!
- Luke 23:34 *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

The Power of the Cross!

- Luke 23:39-42 “Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, ‘If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.’ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’”

The Power of the Cross!

- **Luke 23:39-42**
- **Matthew 27:50-54** *“And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, ‘Truly this was the Son of God!’”*

What will it take for me to
see what the thief saw?

