

THE THIEF ON THE CROSS²⁵

10/8/25

The following discussion reveals that a scriptural process to save the thief was all but impossible... the simple process of comparing spiritual with spiritual reveals much more than personal preferences.

1COR 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

This is the scripture which is used to support the thief's conversion. LUK 23:39

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. **40** But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? **41** And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. **42** And he said unto Jesus, Lord, **remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.** **43** And Jesus said unto him, **Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.**

g3857. παράδεισος *paradeisos*; of Oriental origin (compare h6508); a park, i.e. (specially), an Eden (place of future happiness, "paradise"): — *paradise.* (There are more detailed references to parkland in Strong's expanded notes)

This is the only reference in the whole bible where the thief is mentioned in this manner... if such a deliverance were possible, it would be confirmed in many more references.

Jesus never went to heaven 'that day'. ACT 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, **being seen of them forty days**, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: **Pentecost was 10 days later... a total of 50 days from his resurrection to his rising to heaven.**

There are two more accounts of the thief's comments.

Both the thieves cursed Jesus. MAT 27:42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. ...&**44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.** *Why the change of heart from the so-called repentant thief?*

MAR 15:32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. **And they that were crucified with him reviled him.** **33** And when the sixth hour was come...

Further support for 'paradise' being a reference to his place of burial... a garden, parkland etc.

Made his grave in a garden with the wicked. ISA 53:9 And he **made his grave** (burying place) **with the wicked**, and with the **rich in his death**; *Not one saved and one unsaved thief.*

JOH 19:40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. **41** Now **in the place where he was crucified there was a garden**; and in the **garden** a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

Knowing in advance how many would misunderstand the answer to the thief... God provided ample evidence to support the real meaning of what was said.

The Gardener? JOH 20:15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? **She, supposing him to be the gardener**, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. **16** Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. **17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not** (*I can't help you yet... just like the thief.*); **for I am not yet ascended to my Father**: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. *None of his faithful friends were ever offered such a conversion as claimed for the thief.*

Did Jesus have the authority to override or modify God's Salvation methods and principles?

Jesus had limited authority. MAT 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. **23** And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father. *Other examples...* **JOH 10:1** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, **but climbeth up** (*enters*) **some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.** **GAL 1:8** But though we, or an **angel from heaven**, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed.** **JOH 12: 50** And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: **whatsoever I speak therefore**, even as the **Father said unto me, so I speak.**

Jesus had the power to forgive sin, but lost it when the Holy Spirit was removed from him.

Jesus had the power to forgive sin. MAT 9:5 For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? **6** But that ye may know that **the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins**... *Being forsaken, he had to ask God to forgive their sin.* **LUK 23:34** Then said Jesus, Father, **forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. **35** And the people stood beholding.

The final torment for Jesus is the realization of being totally abandoned by God..

Why have you forsaken me? MAT 27:44 ...The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth. **45** Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. **46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, **why hast thou forsaken me?**

The Salvation Message remains unchanged... no one has the authority to change it.

ACT 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.