

Too Small A Price

Thanks Alicia, We will be sharing grace and truth about the crucifixion. You might hear some things you haven't heard before. Maybe some things you hadn't thought of before.

When Jesus was crucified two other men were crucified with Him. One on His left and one on His right. Jesus was in the middle.

I'd never thought if that was significant that Jesus was in the middle.

It's interesting that one thief was very verbally against Jesus the whole time. The other...well initially he was verbally against Jesus also.

One thief is referred to as the "good" thief. The other we don't call the "bad" thief, the "cursing" thief, not even the "bound-for-hell" thief.

He is just called "the thief on the other cross".

The good thief - was there ever a thief that was good? I think a better description of him is the repentant thief, the thief who believed, or the thief who changed his mind.

Firstly though, he was a thief. And most likely a liar too, possibly even a violent man. And he was a thief going to be

executed. There could have been something else about him we don't know. That we were never told.

But let's back up a few hours.

So, here was the thief in jail. With the other thief. And there could have been many more men waiting to be executed.

It wasn't going to be a quick death like getting beheaded or having a sword thrust into your stomach. This was going to be a very slow, excruciatingly painful death.

This is what he was expecting for the last few hours of his life.

I wonder what was going through his mind? No doubt he knew others who'd been crucified. And he'd most likely seen many crucifixions.

But now it was his turn.

When the thieves **and** Jesus were taken from the jail to be nailed to a rough Roman cross it was just after eight o'clock in the morning.

They were nailed to the crosses at nine o'clock.

They hung there for three hours and then suddenly the sun stopped shining. The Greek language makes it very clear it was not a solar eclipse.

And for three more hours, from noon till 3:00 pm, it was like the middle of the night. Dark. No moon, no stars. Nothing to give even a little bit of light.

During the first three hours Jesus suffered a lot of verbal abuse. From the chief priests, elders, soldiers, passers-by, and both thieves took part in it.

The one on the other cross was much more verbal and more abusive than the first thief. He said something though that was very interesting to Jesus: he said to Jesus “Aren’t You the Christ.”

It was a statement not a question. A couple of translations say he said, “**If** you are the Christ”. The Greek language is better translated as “**Aren’t** You the Christ.”

This thief knew Jesus **was** the Messiah. But he wasn’t about to trust Him to be his Saviour. He was much like the Pharisees and the crowd that called for Jesus to be crucified. Full of hatred and evil intentions. Probably even demon influenced and demon driven.

The other thief was well...initially no different. But he heard a couple of things that made him think.

A couple of things that made him change his mind about Jesus.

Ever wondered what he heard? Ever wonder what made him change his mind?

During the first three hours when the sun was still shining Jesus said two very significant things.

The thief heard Jesus say, “Father, forgive them for they don’t know what they are doing”.

“Father, forgive them for they don’t know what they are doing”.

And the thief saw Mary and the apostle John standing below Jesus. He heard Jesus say to his mother, ““Woman, look, here is your son!” (Jesus) then said to his disciple, ‘Look, here is your mother!’”

Even though the repentant thief had screamed and cursed at Jesus, he **now** had a change of mind about the King of the Jews.

Maybe it was because Jesus wasn’t cursing the priests and the Roman guards like others did.

He was forgiving them!

Maybe it was because Jesus spoke tenderly to John to look after His mother.

The thief had changed his mind about Jesus.

Meanwhile the thief on the other cross was still cursing and swearing. But now the repentant thief rebuked him and said, “Don’t you fear God since you are under the same sentence of

condemnation? And we rightly so, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did, but this man has done nothing wrong.”

He had **had** a dramatic change of heart.

The Greek word for this expression is *met-an-o-eh-o*. It is the same word for “repent”. But the thief didn’t repent of his sins. He **didn’t** confess any sins to Jesus. He just believed **in** Jesus and that brought a change of heart.

Acts 3:19 first part of the verse in the KJV “Repent ye therefore, and be converted...”

The thief repented by **believing** in Jesus, he had a change of heart and he **was** converted.

We read in the last half of the verse 19 that **all** his sins were, quote: “blotted out (and) the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” unquote.

The thief then said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in Your kingdom.”

Jesus said to him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

It was now noon. It now became dark.

And it became quiet. Very quiet.

About 3:00 pm the sun suddenly started to shine again. But it was still quiet.

Everyone was wondering: “What happened? What just happened to the sun?”

No one had an answer or an explanation.

We’re going to listen to the repentant thief’s story in a song. It covers the time when he was taken from the jail cell to...well, you’ll find out.

The song is written as if the thief himself is telling the story. It was written, and is sang and played by Don Francisco. He has a God-given anointing to tell bible stories in song. And no one tells these stories like he does.

Don is my favourite singer/song writer. This song, *Too Small A Price*, is my most favourite song. I’ve listened to it dozens and dozens of times.

I should know almost every word. And it has moved me to tears many times.

I even had to stop driving one time. It’s difficult to drive when tears are streaming from your eyes.

So let’s listen to the thief tell his story now. And imagine being the proverbial fly on the wall and seeing everything the thief experienced.

I recommend listening to the song. And then listening to it again. It's only after several times that we begin to get a different perspective on the crucifixion.

You can hear this song and more of Don Francisco's music through the link on our web site: www.truthministries.ca

Let's listen.

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