

*Series graphic and/or Good Friday graphic(s) --(whatever I need to announce)*  
--put series graphic AFTER announcement graphic if applicable

### **Luke 23:32-43**

Two others—**criminals**—were also led away to be executed with Him. <sup>33</sup> When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified Him there, along with the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided His clothes and cast lots.

<sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and even the leaders were scoffing: “He **saved** others; let Him **save** Himself if this is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One!” <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him. They came offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, **save** yourself!”

<sup>38</sup> An inscription was above him: *This Is the King of the Jews*.

<sup>39</sup> Then one of the criminals hanging there began to yell insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? **Save yourself and us!**”

<sup>40</sup> But the other answered, rebuking Him: “Don’t you even fear God, since you are undergoing the same punishment? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, because we’re getting back what we deserve for the things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into your kingdom.”

<sup>43</sup> And He said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be **with Me** in paradise.”

### **WHEN ...?**

- **God, WHEN are you going to ...?**

{Split Screen}

LEFT SIDE: *Missing Jesus graphic*

RIGHT SIDE: **What if we are missing God because of our “when” and “now” focus?**

### **Mark 15:32b (see also Matthew 27:44)**

Even **those** who were crucified with Him **taunted** Him.

**In their/our “when” and “now”, Jesus (=God) looks **powerless**.**

### **Luke 23:32-34**

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### **Luke 23:35-38**

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**Because Jesus does not act in the “now” (Save yourself ...), it becomes **evidence** used against Him.**

### **Luke 23:39**

Then one of the criminals hanging there began to yell insults at him: “Aren’t You the Messiah? **Save yourself and us!**”

### **Luke 23:40-41**

But the other answered, rebuking him: “**Don’t you even fear God**, since you are undergoing the same punishment? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, because we’re getting back **what we deserve** for the things we did, but this man has done **nothing** wrong.”

### **Luke 23:42**

Then he said, “Jesus, **remember me** when you come into **Your kingdom**.” And He said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be **with Me in paradise**.”

*{come up one at a time; same slide}*

**When** God doesn’t do “it” **now**, there is something more **radical** at work ...

- a) Deep (vs. superficial)
- b) Ultimate (vs. urgent)

Image: 3 Crosses

[https://cdn.activechristianity.org/image/upload/c\\_thumb,h\\_300,w\\_600,g\\_center/v1607547203/en/2pLfesiO90DRRIyEEYtIXdywQJkIxTh2YFcMgoUo.jpg](https://cdn.activechristianity.org/image/upload/c_thumb,h_300,w_600,g_center/v1607547203/en/2pLfesiO90DRRIyEEYtIXdywQJkIxTh2YFcMgoUo.jpg)

*{one slide; all together}*

### **2 Criminals: Similarities**

- Both are suffering
- Both are guilty
- Both want to be saved
- Both hear & see Jesus

- Both started on the same path

*{all together; same slide}*

## **2 Criminals: Differences**

- Response to suffering & guilt
- What they want to be saved from
- How they “hear & see” Jesus

The “radical” work of God ...

*{come up one at a time; same slide}*

1) The “radical” work of God **in and through suffering**:

- a) When/Now ☐ Relief & Escape ☐ Railing against God
- b) Radical ☐ Reflection & Redemption

One of the most dangerous words: **deserve**

☐ *Don’t you fear God ...?*

2) The “radical” work of God to bring about **God-centered, gutsy guilt**

Most people do not want to experience true guilt.

*{come up one at a time}*

Most guilt is pride in disguise ☐ Me-centered guilt

- Wounded ego guilt
- Damaged image; How “it” makes me look

*{one slide}*

**“Don’t you fear God ...”**

☐ Crushing sense of fear & remorse at our rebellion & treachery toward Holy God = GOD-CENTERED

*{one slide}*

**GUTSY GUILT**

**Psalms 25:11**

Lord, for the sake of **Your Name**, forgive my iniquity, for it is immense.

*{one slide}*

**Radical Message of the Gospel:**

- Our problem—sin—is worse than we can imagine
- The solution—grace—is better than we could ever deserve

3) The “radical” work of God to make the Cross our only **boast**.

**4 Radical & Offensive Truths of the Cross**

1) There are no other ways to heaven ... to be saved

**4 Radical & Offensive Truths of the Cross**

2) Good people who die without trusting in Jesus face eternal separation from God

**4 Radical & Offensive Truths of the Cross**

3) Convicted criminals who die as repentant, trusting in Jesus people are saved

**Galatians 6:14**

May I never **boast** except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

**4 Radical & Offensive Truths of the Cross**

4) Every good thing and every bad thing that God turns for good was purchased by the death of Jesus for us.

4) The “radical” work of God to **reward us with Himself**.

□ *“With Me”*

5) The “radical” work of God to **open our hands in trust & surrender**.

**Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified **with** Christ, and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me**. The life I **now** live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.