

THERE WERE THREE CROSSES.

6/14/2026 PM

INTRO.:

A. Read the text: **Isaiah 53:6-12.**

B. Regarding the text:

1. Isaiah speaks of the fulfillment of the coming Savior.
 - 1) Note **verse 12**: "...and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors. "
2. Just outside the Northern wall in Jerusalem is a place known as Calvary ("a low, rounded hill.") Or Golgotha: "the place of a skull" (**Matt. 27:33**).
3. Silhouetted against the sky were 3 crosses.
 - 1) **Matt. 27:38** Two thieves crucified with him.
 - 2) **Mark 15:27-28**.
 - 3) Two THIEVES and the SAVIOR.
4. Usually, we focus on the center cross upon which Jesus was crucified. (But there were THREE.)
5. Each one represents a powerful lesson.
 - 1) One represents rebellion and sin.
 - 2) One recognizes his condition and seeks security.
 - 3) The center cross is the cross of sacrifice.

DISCUSSION: IN THIS LESSON WE WILL OBSERVE...

I. THE CROSS OF SIN.

A. One thief joins the mocking crowd.

1. The crowd: **Luke 23:35** He saved others; let him save himself.
2. The thief: **Luke 23:39**. The cross of rebellion and unbelief!
3. "***IF*** thou be Christ..." **IF** represents doubt and unbelief!
 - 1) **John 8:24** "... for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."
 - 2) **Luke 12:8** "... Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God."

B. This thief **CHOSE to stay in his lost condition!**

1. He wanted physical deliverance, no thought for his soul.
2. How many today make this same mistake?

II. THE CROSS OF SECURITY.

A. At first BOTH spoke against the Savior.

1. **Matt. 27:44** "... cast the same with their teeth" (**rail at, chide**).
2. They followed the crowd and mocked Jesus.

B. Notice **Luke 23:39-43.**

1. **Verse 41**: "...this man hath done nothing amiss."
 - 1) He knew Jesus was innocent.
 - 2) How did he know? Only by knowing something of Jesus!
2. **Verse 42**: "... And he said unto Jesus, Lord..." He called Jesus "Lord."
3. Again, **Verse 42**, "...remember me when thou comest into ***thy kingdom***."
 - 1) He asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus came into his kingdom.
 - 2) How did he know about a kingdom?
 - 3) He believed that even after dying on the cross, he would still be a king.
4. He acknowledged Christ as Lord and King!

C. He made a change and sought security in the Lord.

1. Recognizing his need and repenting:

2. **Luke 23:43** "... Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

D. Many today dismiss baptism due to this incident. (Explain.)

1. To answer this question, we observe...
 - 1) The thief died before the Great Commission baptism.
 - 2) Jesus had not yet died, and so the New Covenant had not come into effect (**Col. 2:14**).
2. TODAY we are under the New Law (gospel) and must repent and be baptized (**Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:37-38**).

E. This was a cross of SECURITY because Jesus assured this man that "Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise."

III. THE CROSS OF SACRIFICE.

A. The hope of SALVATION realized.

1. Note **1 Tim. 1:15**.
 - 1) Sin in the Garden of Eden (**Gen. 3:12, 13** "I did eat...").
 - 2) Redemption Promised. (**Gen. 3:15**).
2. Our sins required a Redeemer. All will sin from time to time (**Rom. 3:23**).
3. Our sins required a blood sacrifice. **Heb. 9:22** "... without shedding of blood is no remission."

B. The cross of SACRIFICE was God's answer for my salvation.

1. Jesus bore all our sins.
 - 1) **Heb. 9:28** "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many..."
 - 2) **2 Cor. 5:21** "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin..."
 - 3) **1 Pet. 2:24** He would bare our sins in his own body on the tree.
2. Christ is recognized as a man of sorrows (**Isa. 53:3**).
 - 1) **Rom. 5:6-8**.
 - 2) **1 Pet. 3:18** "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God..."

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. We are all like those two thieves.

1. We must make a choice.
2. Will we remain in sin or accept the security provided by the cross of sacrifice?

B. He died for all... some will not accept the pardon.

1. God chose to provide for our salvation.
2. You and I must choose between sin and security!