

# STATEMENTS FROM THE CROSS

Lesson #2 -With Me in Paradise

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:39-43

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Introduction:

1. The thief on the cross is both beautiful and misunderstood.
2. We will examine two key lessons from the thief on the cross.

## **I. THE MEANING OF THE TEXT**

### **A. THE GUILT OF THE THIEF**

1. He admitted his guilt and just punishment -vs. 41
2. He also mocked Jesus -Mt 27:44; Mk 15:32

### **B. HIS CHANGE OF HEART**

1. Perhaps brought about by what he saw in Jesus
  - a. He did not revile in return -1Pe 2:23
  - b. He had a forgiving attitude -Lk 23:34
2. He defended Jesus -Lk 23:40, 41

### **C. THE PROMISE HE RECEIVED**

1. He would be with Jesus this day in Paradise
2. Nature of Paradise
  - a. It is a part of Hades (realm of the dead)
  - b. It is not synonymous with heaven -Jn 20:17
  - c. NOTE: Chart on back

## **II. THE MISUSE OF THE TEXT**

### **A. THE BELIEF AMONG MANY**

1. The thief believed in Jesus and was saved.
2. Many conclude because NT baptism was not a part of his salvation, it is not a necessary part of our salvation today; faith is what matters.

### **B. THE NATURE OF NT BAPTISM**

1. The gospel defined -1Co 15:1-4
2. The gospel must be obeyed -2Th 1:7, 8
3. How the gospel is obeyed -Ro 6:3, 4

### **C. WAS THIS POSSIBLE FOR THE THIEF ON THE CROSS?**

1. Until the death of the Testator, there is no NT -He 9:16, 17
2. Until the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus there was no gospel
3. Until the preaching of the first gospel sermon, there was nothing known to be obeyed -Acts 2

Conclusion:

1. We are living under the NT today.
2. Therefore, we must have our faith in Christ and obey to gospel to be saved.