

Sermon Discussion Guide:

# The Two Criminals

Scripture: **Luke 23:39–43**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, August 16, 2020

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## OVERVIEW

In this account, we see the grace of God on full display through the example of the two criminals being crucified next to Jesus. One criminal died questioning and blaspheming the Son of God while the other saw the wickedness of his sin and desperation. Like the believing criminal, we too must see and even boast in our own neediness in order to comprehend the glory of God's grace.

**Salvation comes not to the deserving but to the desperate.**

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Has there been a time in your life where you've felt true desperation? Where did you turn in that moment for comfort?
2. Like the first criminal, we all have moments where we question and blaspheme the Son of God, even as we see his divine love for us at the cross. Where do you tend to question God the most?
3. What did the believing criminal mean when he pleads to Jesus to "remember" him? What does this simple request reveal about the criminal's heart?
4. Why is it necessary that a true awareness of and conviction over our sin precede salvation? Why is this so hard for our culture to come to grips with?
5. What does it look like to boast in our neediness and desperation? How does this result in God being glorified?
6. How can we practically remind ourselves of our true confidence before God? How will this motivate us to love our neighbor?