

Study Notes on Luke 23:39-43 (NRSV)
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Dr. Clay Brown, MDPC Equipping Pastor

Passage (New Revised Standard Version)

39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding[a] him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah?[b] Save yourself and us!” **40** But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? **41** And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” **42** Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into[c] your kingdom.” **43** He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Footnotes:

[a] Luke 23:39 Or *blaspheming*

[b] Luke 23:39 Or *the Christ*

[c] Luke 23:42 Other ancient authorities read *in*

Questions

- How does Luke 23:39-43 connect with what the overall narrative of Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion? With what will come next in Luke 24? With the Bible’s overall story of redemption?
- What other passages in the Bible give insight on what is happening in Luke 23:39-43?
- If we didn’t have Luke 23:39-43 in the Bible, what would we be missing? What would it be significant?
- What draws your attention most as you read Luke 23:39-43? Reflect on why this seems to be the case.
- What bothers you in Luke 23:39-43? Why?
- Why have so many people through the years experienced difficulty with the interaction between the criminal on the cross and Jesus? What are some of the implications of this interaction for us?
- The comment is made in the video study that “justice is met, but grace wins” in Luke 23:39-43. How do both justice and grace intersect?
- What is God saying to you through Luke 23:39-43? How do you need to respond to His communication to you?
- What is worth sharing to a friend or family member from Luke 23:39-43? How can you share this in the midst of our current circumstances?