



Views  
OF THE  
CROSS

# Mocking Thief

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“Are you not the Christ?  
Save Yourself and us.”  
(Luke 23:39)

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Ever since Adam’s disobedience in the Garden of Eden, human beings have been in rebellion against God. Some people openly mock Him like this thief and others who taunted Jesus Christ while He was on the Cross. But a person does not need to be a blatant scoffer to face God’s wrath. We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Even a single sin separates us from God and requires eternal judgment by our holy Creator. We need His forgiveness.



# Centurion by the Cross

“Truly this Man was the  
Son of God!” (Mark 15:39)

The words spoken by the centurion accurately identify Jesus. He was not just a good teacher who accidentally got mixed up with the Jewish and Roman authorities. He is God in human flesh (John 1:14). He is our Creator, and He will return and judge this world. Jesus Christ revealed what God is like. He came to earth to live a sinless life, to die on the Cross for our sins, and to rise from the dead. His perfect sacrifice in our place paid the penalty we deserve for our sin.





# Jesus on the Cross

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“It is finished.” (John 19:30)

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Jesus stated these famous words from the Cross just before He died, indicating that He had taken the wrath of God for the sins of the world upon Himself. Everything necessary to save sinners was accomplished by the sacrificial death, burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Manmade religions reject Christ's words and teach that a person can earn salvation from sin by doing good deeds, but good works can never remove sin. Salvation is a free gift from God that can only be received through faith in the completed work of the Son of God (Ephesians 2:8–10).



# Repentant Thief

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“Lord, remember me when You enter into Your kingdom.” (Luke 23:42)

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After initially reviling Jesus, one of the thieves crucified with Him demonstrated a repentant heart. He recognized his own sinfulness and confessed that Jesus would rise again and reign. As a result of this act of faith, Jesus told him that they would be together in paradise that very day. Forgiveness of sins cannot be obtained by good works (Titus 3:5); it can only be received when a sinner acknowledges his or her guilt before God and humbly pleads for His forgiveness.



## Empty Tomb

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“Why do you seek the living among the dead?  
He is not here; He is risen!” (Luke 24:5–6)

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Spoken by an angel, these words surprised the group of women who visited Christ’s tomb. Jesus had risen from the dead! Over the next 40 days, He appeared to multiple groups of people, demonstrating by many infallible proofs He was alive. Christ’s Resurrection revealed that He has power over death and guarantees eternal life to every person who believes and trusts in His finished work. Adam’s rebellion brought sin and death to God’s perfect creation, but the Creator, Jesus Christ, conquered sin and death by His Crucifixion and Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20–23).

# Examine Your Heart

Take a sincere look at your own life. Are you like the thief on the cross who mocked Jesus and remained obstinate, refusing to trust in Jesus Christ?

Perhaps you are like the soldiers at the foot of the Cross gambling for Christ's clothes. They were too distracted by worldly desires to realize they were part of the most important event in history.

Have you been too preoccupied by the busyness and cares of this world to consider your eternal destiny? If you are like any of these individuals, don't wait until it is too late. Be like the repentant thief who confessed his sin to Jesus, asking for mercy. Turn from your sinful ways and call out to God, asking for His forgiveness. He is ready and willing to graciously forgive all who come to Him.

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“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

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