

## TWO DIFFERENT DESTINIES

TEXT: (Luke 23:32-43 NLT)

<sup>32</sup> Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. <sup>33</sup> When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

<sup>35</sup> The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” <sup>36</sup> The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. <sup>37</sup> They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup> A sign was fastened above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? <sup>41</sup> We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” <sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

<sup>43</sup> And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

### INTRODUCTION

1. “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13-14 KJV).
2. “Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able” (Luke 13:24 KJV).

### I. THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE

1. “And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:15-17 KJV).

2. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23 KJV).
3. “The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and* seek God. They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one” (Psalm 14:2-3 KJV).

#### A. The Lamb of God

1. “John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29 KJV).
2. “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10 KJV).

## II. THE ONE ON THE LEFT

1. “And as it is appointed unto men once to die” (Hebrews 9:27 KJV).

### A. Physically Alive; Spiritually Dead

1. “One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, ‘So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!’” (Luke 23:39 NLT).

### B. Dying in the Presence of the Lamb of God

1. “Seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us” (Acts 17:27 KJV).

### C. Hell—the Sinner’s Choice

1. “See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil” (Deuteronomy 30:15, KJV).

## III. THE ONE ON THE RIGHT

### A. An Attitude That Leads to Repentance

1. “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God” (I Peter 4:17 KJV).

2. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23 KJV).

3. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23 KJV).

4. “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8 KJV).

3. Repentance includes the awareness that it is beyond an individual’s power to bring

4. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV).

5. “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away” (Isaiah 64:6 KJV).

6. “We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong” (Luke 23:41 NLT).

### B. Taking advantage of the Opportunity

1. “God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith” (Romans 12:3 KJV).

## CONCLUSION

1. “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2-3, KJV).

2. “Choose you this day whom ye will serve” (Joshua 24:15 KJV).