



# Faces around the Cross

## Study Guide March 15, 2009

**STUDY** - These are questions that will help you dig deeper into the text and content of the message and/or material.

Luke 23: 39-43 (read out loud)

1. How did Christ respond to the two different perspectives shared by the thieves?
2. What kinds of deliverance are they seeking?

**LIVE** - These questions should help you to make a life application and may encourage your group members to reflect and, maybe even, act.

3. Are you making demands of God, like the arrogant thief, or are you trusting Him with humility?
4. What is your perspective looking at Jesus on the Cross?

**CONNECT** - Now turn your chairs toward one another and begin sharing how this study may affect your life, your opinions, and maybe even your worldview.

5. In your mind, what is it about Jesus that made such an impression on one criminal? (v. 40-41)
6. Does your life reflect a Christ-like attitude that makes people want what you have?
7. The thief recognized that Christ was without sin and forgave the accusers. Are you able to forgive those who accuse you falsely?

**PRAY** - Prayer is essential for a growing group. It connects us to God and opens us up to His blessings.

*"Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too!" he mocked.*

He needed to see proof. He wasn't showing any remorse for his crime, either, and his concern was for himself.

8. When you pray, are you constantly asking God for proof or are you putting your trust in Him by faith?

**GOING DEEPER** - Thirsting for more? Just can't get enough? These questions, or thoughts, may give you some food for thought. Something to take home and snack on after the Sermon Study Group meeting is over.

*"Verily, I say to you, today shall you be with me in Paradise."* Luke 23:43

Note: This statement emphasizes several facts concerning salvation (taken from Wilmington's Guide to the Bible):

1. That salvation is offered to anyone, anywhere. Are deathbed conversions valid? They are indeed, for here is one. There is only one deathbed conversion in the Bible, so no dying man will despair. . .
  - a. In the morning the thief was nailed to a cross. In the evening he was wearing a crown.
  - b. In the morning he was an enemy of Caesar. In the evening he was a friend of God.
  - c. In the morning he was spurned by men. In the evening he was fellowshiping with angels.
  - d. In the morning he died as a criminal on earth. In the evening he lived as a citizen of heaven.
2. That salvation is by grace through faith alone.