

The Picture of Grace from the Cross



The Gospels give us long sections of the final week of Jesus' life on earth. The cross was the fulfillment of His mission. It was the lamb sacrificed. It was the price paid for redeeming us. The death of Jesus was slow, painful and bloody. Modern terms that we'd use to describe the Lord's death would include murder, torture, and inhumane. The death of Jesus was intended to be a statement. And, in these final moments, while on the cross, Jesus once again extends grace. Not once but twice. And, in this final class, we want to see these pictures of grace from the cross. Grace is not _____, nor _____. Grace doesn't make sense. Grace is always a _____.

Picture One: the crucifiers (Lk 23:33-38)

Jesus had already experienced several painful moments leading up to cross

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Our Lord was on the cross for six hours (three hours of light and three hours of darkness—Mk 15:33)
This is the first of seven sayings of Jesus from the cross

1. In a atmosphere of hateful words, Jesus chose grace

Was their 'not knowing what they were doing,' excusable?

What did they not know?

Were they forgiven right then (Jn 8:24; Heb 11:6)?

Picture Two: the penitent thief on the cross (Lk 23:39-43)

Initially, both criminals hurled abuse at Jesus (Mt 27:44; Mk 15:32). One had a change of heart. Why?

The penitent thief rebukes his fellow criminal. In doing this, what statement does he make about Jesus?

What Five things did this thief know:

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Grace is found in the promise: *today you will be with me in paradise*. Jesus knew.

What is paradise?

What word did Peter use for this in Acts 2?