

# Three Men on a Hill

**TEXT:** John 19:17-18

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. WE OFTEN SPEAK OF THE CROSS OF CALVARY – BUT THERE WERE THREE.
- B. WHY WERE THEY CRUCIFIED?
  - 1. The cowardice of Pilate crucified Jesus (**John 19:38; Matt. 27:22-24**).
  - 2. The other two were criminals (**Luke 23:32; Matt. 27:38**).
- C. LET'S LOOK AT EACH OF THESE CROSSES AND THE MEN WHO DIED ON THEM.

## I. THE FIRST DIED **IN** SIN.

- A. AN UNREPENTANT ROBBER (**Eph. 4:28**).
  - 1. Physical consequence to his crime (**Rom. 13:3-5**).
  - 2. Physical consequence serves to discipline (**Heb. 12:9-10**).
- B. REBELLED AGAINST THE LAWS OF GOD AND MAN (**Rom. 3:23; 1 John 3:4**).
- C. HE RAILED AGAINST JESUS RIGHT UP TO THE END (**Luke 23:39; Eph. 4:29**).
- D. HIS CROSS WAS THE LEAST OF HIS PROBLEMS.
  - 1. There is a sin unto death (**1 John 5:16**).
    - No chance for one who dies without repentance.
  - 2. Dead in sin (**Eph. 2:1, 11-12**) **NO HOPE**.
  - 3. No heaven (**John 8:21**).
  - 4. Eternal fire (**Matt. 25:41, 46**).
    - a. Jesus' picture of hell (**Mark. 9:48**). Unquenched fire, undying worms.
    - b. Annihilation or Eternal suffering (**Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10**).

## II. THE SECOND DIED **TO** SIN.

- A. ALSO A ROBBER, DYING FOR HIS CRIME.
- B. RECOGNIZED HIS SIN.
  - 1. A time for honesty (**1 John 1:8, 10**)
  - 2. Sorrow for sin (**James 4:8-10**), not for getting caught.
  - 3. Godly sorrow works repentance (**2 Cor. 7:10**).
- C. WASN'T IT TOO LATE – ON THE CROSS?
  - 1. He acknowledged Jesus' innocence (**Luke 23:41**).
  - 2. His authority as king (**Acts 2:36**).
  - 3. He desired mercy in some degree (**Luke 23:42**).
- D. **Acts 2:38**. WHY WASN'T HE BAPTIZED?
  - 1. Lived and died under the Old Covenant (**Mark 2:10**). **FREE AT LAST!**
  - 2. When do we die to sin? (**Rom. 6:1-7, 11, 12-13**).

## III. THE THIRD DIED **FOR** SIN.

- A. HE DIED FOR OUR SINS (**Gal. 1:4; 1 Cor. 15:3**).
  - 1. He paid the price for our sins (**2 Cor. 5:14-15**).
  - 2. A vicarious death (**1 Pet. 2:24**).
  - 3. God's plan (**Acts 2:22-24; 1 Pet. 1:18-20**). **REDEEMED!**
- B. IT WAS A CROSS OF LOVE.
  - 1. Undeserved (**Rom. 5:8**).
  - 2. No greater love (**Eph. 3:16-19; John 15:13**).

## CONCLUSION: WHAT DID WE LEARN?

- A. FROM THE **FIRST** – GOD WILL NOT SAVE THE REBELLIOUS.
- B. FROM THE **SECOND** – GOD WILL SAVE THE VILEST IF HE REPENTS.
- C. FROM THE **THIRD** – REDEEMED THROUGH HIS BLOOD.
- D. IF WE DIED TODAY, WOULD WE BE IN PARADISE? (**Luke 23:42-43**).