

**Luke 23:32–43 (ESV)**

*“Christ’s Passive Obedience:  
The Character of the Messiah”*

<sup>32</sup>Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

<sup>33</sup>And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

<sup>34</sup>And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.

<sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!”

<sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine

<sup>37</sup>and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

<sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

<sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”

<sup>41</sup>And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”

<sup>42</sup>And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

<sup>43</sup>And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

### **An Understanding Forgiveness**

*What was the nature of Jesus’ plea that the Father forgive those that brought Him to the cross? In what way was His plea for their forgiveness one of understanding?*

*What’s so amazing about the circumstance of Jesus’ prayer here?*

### **An Unconquerable Submission**

*This is the point of the highest importance of Jesus’ perfect submission to the Father.*

*What are some of the Scriptures that remind us of Jesus’ commitment, in His obedience to the Father, to finish His work for us in His death?*

### **A Manifest Innocence**

*Compare and contrast the responses of the two criminals crucified with Jesus. How is the first criminal characterized in his words?*

*How does the second criminal understand himself and the Lord Jesus in his words? Can you derive a confession of faith in vrs.40-42?*

*How is it that this criminal would understand with such certainty that Jesus is perfectly innocent?*

### **A Redeeming Grace**

*How is grace applied here by Jesus, even as He suffers? How is it grace? Was the one criminal simply smarter than the other?*

*(Ro. 10:9-13; Eph. 2:8-9)*