

# COMEBACK: Comeback Thief

April 11, 2021 Luke 23:32-43

## OPENING QUESTION

Have you ever struggled with a decision and later realized the answer was right in front of you?

## BLINDED TO A COMEBACK

Luke 23:32-39

- Even in this horribly unjust situation, Jesus prays for those who will kill him. He asks that his executors be forgiven, even the Jews who put him on trial and Judas for betraying him, since they have acted in ignorance. Jesus' intercession lays the basis for God's offer of forgiveness.
- The soldiers cast lots for Jesus' clothes (Psalm 22:18), portraying Jesus as a righteous sufferer.
- The rulers mock Jesus (Ps. 22:7), and don't recognize that the Son of God must suffer for His people.
- The thief who curses Jesus doesn't recognize that his comeback miracle is right there next to him, and believes it's too late for him.
- Some of us are in it deep. We're stuck and we're blaming anyone and everyone...including God...and we don't even realize He's been right here with us all along.

**Do you identify with the thief in these verses? Have you ever doubted the power of Jesus to save? Do you believe you're too far gone for Him to help you?**

## AWAKENED TO A COMEBACK

Luke 23:40-43

- The thief realizes we're all sentenced to death, the same condemnation as Jesus, but ours is just and His is unjust.
- To mock Jesus is to support injustice. Those who fear God realize what it means to taunt Him.
- With his last breath, the thief asked Jesus for His mercy and forgiveness, and for Jesus to remember him, but Jesus never forgot him.
- We may ask Jesus to remember us, but He lets us know He never forgot us.
- Jesus didn't come to make bad people good, He came to make dead people alive.
- Grace, mercy and power belong to Jesus. This thief had a last minute comeback...and you can have yours today!

**What would it look like to mock Jesus and His power? Do you ever ask Jesus to remember you? Do you realize He's never forgotten or forsaken you, but will always stay close by you?**



# CALL IT A COMEBACK

## CLOSING QUESTIONS

### *Hear*

What are some things that stood out to you in this week's sermon and Scriptures?

### *Obey*

Do you ever feel like you are too far from Jesus to experience His saving power? Can a person go so far that the love of God cannot reach him or her? Can a person do anything that the blood of Jesus cannot cleanse? He never left your side. How does Jesus and the thieves provide an example for you to follow in this passage?

### *Pray*

Pray that God will show you that you never stray too far from Him that He won't be right there for you. How can you pray for one another in this area this week?