



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO US

### The choice is ours, not everyone receives Christ's free gift of eternal life.

There are two men hung with Jesus on that day. Both of these men deserved to die by the laws of that day. They also deserved an eternity separated from God, a fate worse than death. Both of the men must have had some knowledge of who Jesus was or claimed to be. They had heard the mocking of the crowd. "And the people stood by, watching. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One." <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also ridiculed Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" <sup>38</sup> Now there was also an inscription above Him, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." (Luke 23:35-38). I don't believe they didn't know who He said He was and who those there mocking said He was. There were too many miracles that were being talked about for word not to have reached even the lowest of people of the day.

Even with all the evidence one man chose to mock and the other chose to believe. Jesus didn't try to force Himself on the mocker, but He welcomed the other to the kingdom. The first criminal had the same opportunity, he saw the same things happen that day. Yet he made the choice to reject the truth. It is hard for those of us that know Jesus to understand how someone literally waiting to die would have no interest in listening and believing. However, hell is full of those that had their chance and mocked God; sending themselves into an eternity of torment in hell.

As you and I go out and share the message of Jesus and what He did for us we must realize that we will encounter both types of people with both types of responses. We need to realize that we are nothing more than seed planters and those that water the seeds. "So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:7)

When Jesus rose from the grave and appeared to His disciples, on His last moments before ascending into heaven He said this, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20). We are called to "go and make disciples". We don't have the power to save anyone. Jesus does and He did on the cross that day. We have to be willing to share His story and allow Him to do the rest. We have to learn that as sad as it is, not everyone will make the choice to follow Him. Some will never get past being a mocker.

The repentant thief hanging alongside Jesus was a criminal, guilty of crimes that were worthy of death. In a brief moment, Jesus changed everything. Because of his belief, he became a new creation. Old things had passed away, behold all things were new (2 Corinthians 5:17). How about you, have you shown the faith and belief in Jesus Christ?