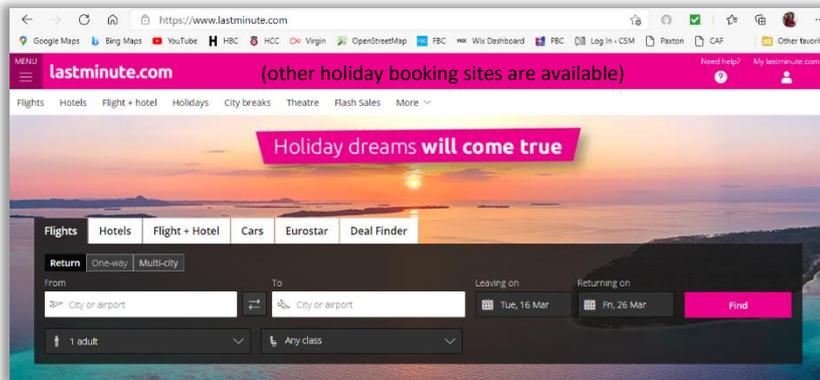


## 21<sup>st</sup> March - LUKE 23 VERSES 26 TO 43: THE THIEF ON THE CROSS: THE GOD WHO MAKES LATE RESCUES



Have you ever felt at the end of your tether? Jot down a few key words to describe your emotions.



Abraham and Isaac – God provides the sacrifice



Fiery furnace – God is present in the fire

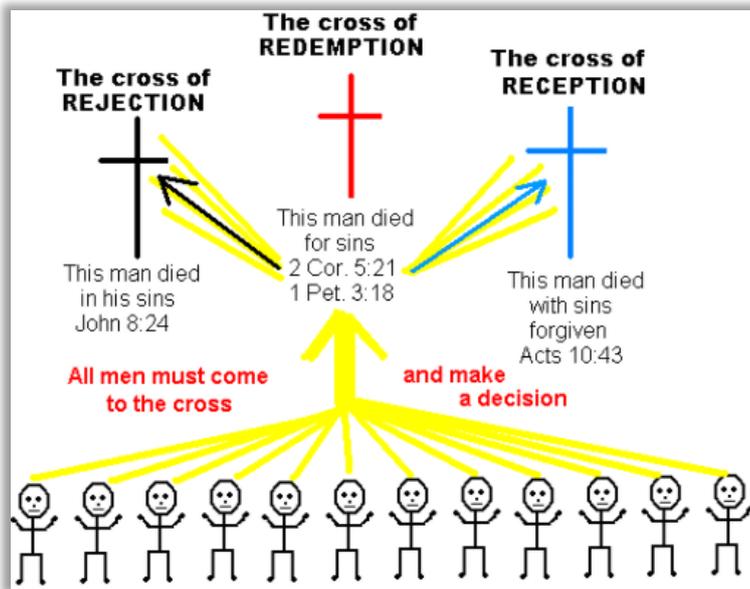


- Jesus went to the cross willingly
- Jesus went to the cross humbly
- Jesus stayed on the cross submissively
- Jesus despised the shame confidently
- Jesus prayed for his persecutors lovingly
- Jesus finished the sacrifice completely

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12:2*

## Key verse: 43 “Today you will be with me in Paradise”

Three crosses, three people, three conditions:



The unrepentant thief:

- Stuck in the here and now
- Focus on his immediate condition
- Wanted release from suffering
- Consumed by anger

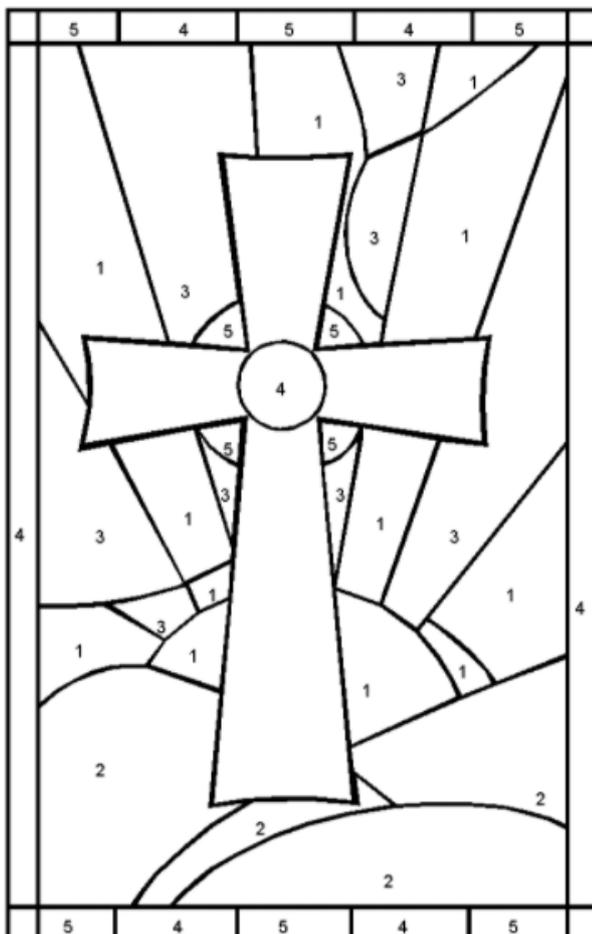
The repentant thief:

- Change of heart
- Recognised Jesus for who He is
- Confessed sin
- Asked forgiveness

The Saviour:

- “All who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. *2 Peter 3:9*



## THIS WEEK - THINK

MONDAY:

What would you say to someone who thought it was ‘too late’ for them to turn to Christ?

TUESDAY:

Is there someone you know who is struggling with guilt? How can you help them to see that in Christ we have been washed clean?

WEDNESDAY:

Is there something you’ve been putting off doing – maybe telling someone about Jesus, but you’re afraid of what they might say?

THURSDAY:

Do you fear man more than God?

FRIDAY:

Thank God that He was willing to send his Son to die on the cross for each of us. Spend time enjoying his presence.