

Repentant Thief Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

Is it reasonable to suppose that criminals do not make a conscious choice to “go bad”?

What are some scenarios that might lead to a series of bad decisions?

What was the difference between the two thieves?

Did it make a difference to their outcome?

How did their words and actions reveal the attitude of their hearts?

Both of them saw Jesus being crucified with them, but what were the differences in what they actually perceived?

Does it seem unfair that this repentant thief went straight to Paradise without doing any restitution, good works or penance for his crimes?

What does God seem to require of us, based on this account?

Is that fair?

What is the most common response of a person today accused of a crime?

What is the attitude that God seems to require of a person in order to be forgiven?

If God simply forgives everybody without repentance, why was the other thief not promised Paradise?

Who paid the penalty for the crimes of the penitent thief?

Do you believe in God?

Do you need forgiveness?

Do you think God is willing to forgive?

What are the reasons you might not want to admit your guilt?

The two thieves probably had similar experiences and took similar paths, but their final outcome was determined by the attitude of the heart. Is there any application of this principle to our world today?