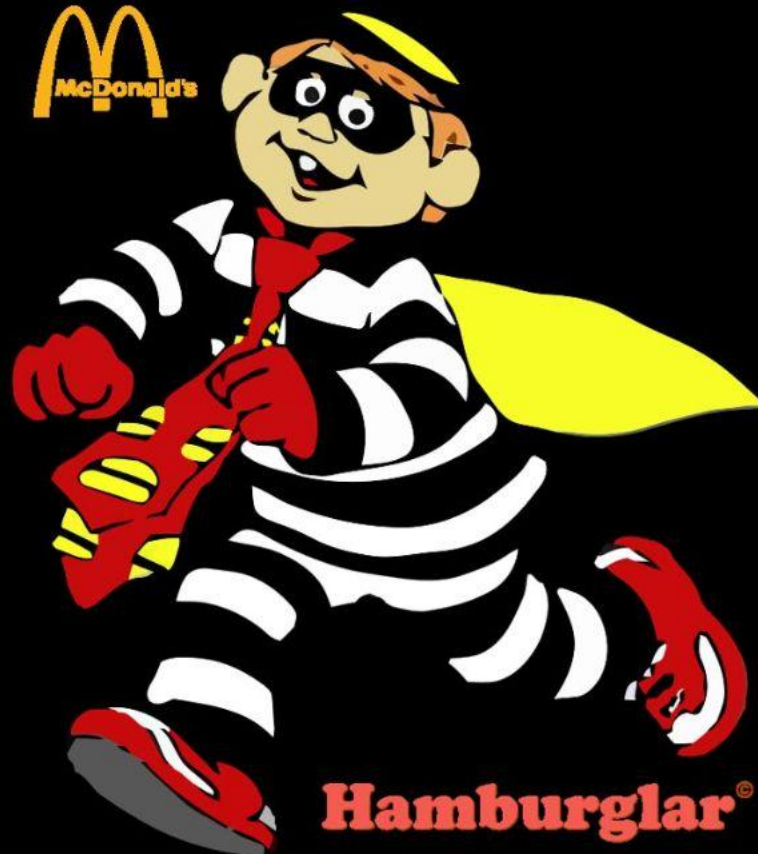


Who is the World's Most
Famous Thief?

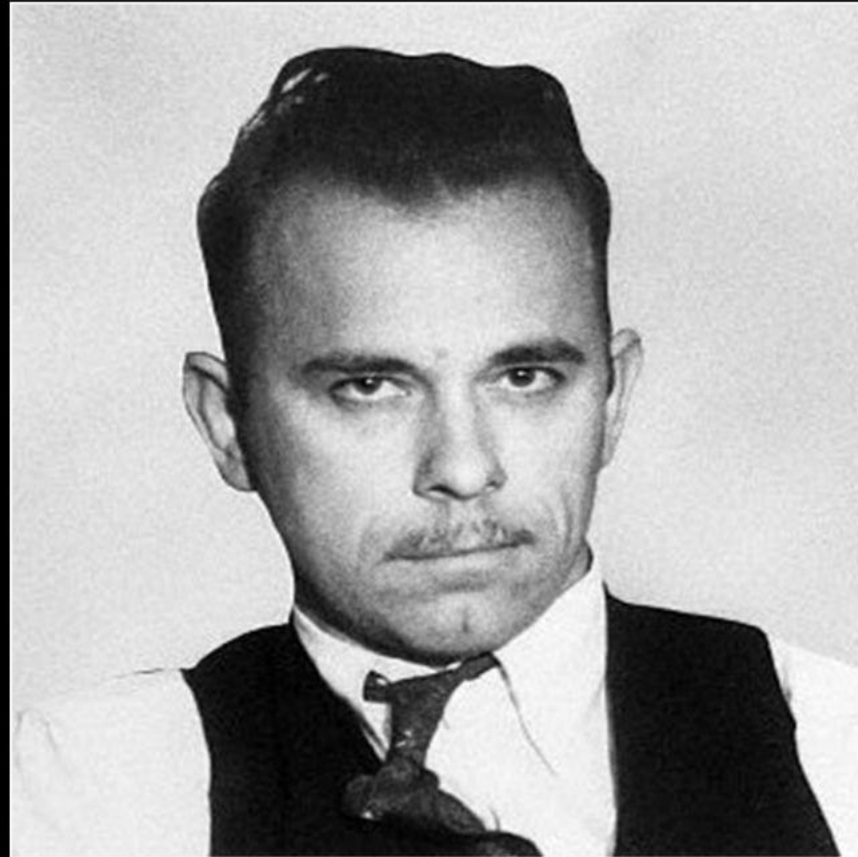
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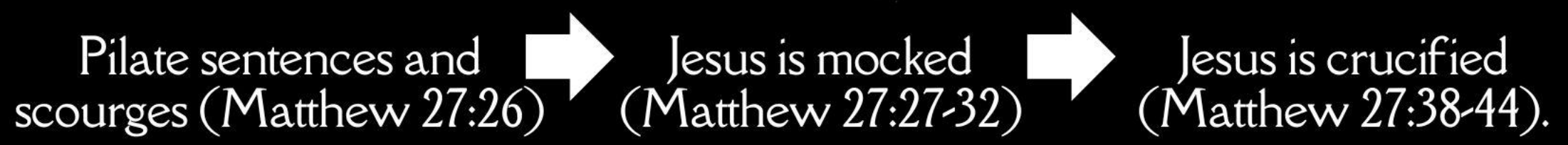


The Thief on the Cross

Luke 23:32-43



Crucifixion Context



Luke 23:32-43

“Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 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. 34 And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. 35 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!” 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine 37 and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” 38 There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

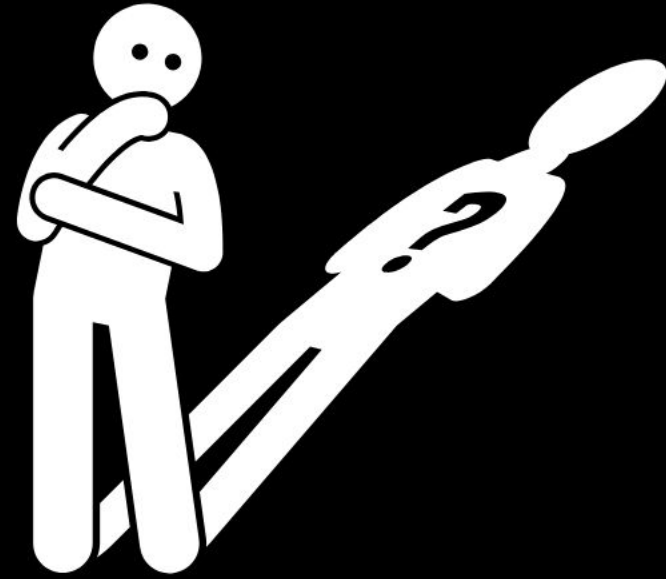


Luke 23:32-43

“One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” 42 And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43 And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise” (ESV).



The Key Question



Does this one example nullify the necessity of water baptism for the remission of sins?

Mark 16:15-16

Acts 2:38; 22:16

1 Peter 3:21

Assumption #1: “The Thief Was Never Baptized”

Matthew 3:1-2, “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 3:5-6, “Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.”

Are you sure??

Assumption #2: “The Thief Is A Template For the Salvation of All”

“And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 8 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— 11 “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home” (ESV).

Assumption #3: “We Are Under the Same Law as the Thief”

1

Jesus Makes a Promise to the Thief

2

Jesus Dies, Is Buried, and Is Risen

3

The Great Commission Is Preached
(Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).

- The “law of Christ” was not in effect until AFTER his death, burial and resurrection.
- The “old law” was “nailed to the cross” (Colossians 2:13-14; Hebrews 7:12; 9:13-17; 8:13; Romans 7:4).

The Thief On the Cross Does Not Nullify the Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."

Mark 16:15-16, "And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

After the Cross and the Commission...

- The Jews were baptized (Acts 2:38, 41)
- The Samaritans were baptized (Acts 8:12)
- Simon was baptized (Acts 8:13)
- The Ethiopian officer was baptized (Acts 8:36-38)
- Saul was baptized (Acts 22:16)
- Cornelius was baptized (Acts 10:43, 45)
- Lydia was baptized (Acts 16:15)
- The Philippian jailer was baptized (Acts 16:31-33)
- The Corinthians were baptized (Acts 18:8)
- The Ephesians were baptized (Acts 19:5)



FIVE VIEWS OF MARK 16:16

The Atheist

•“He who believes and is baptized will **not** be saved...”

The Universalist

•“He who does **not** believe and is **not** baptized will be saved...”

The Catholic

•“He who does **not believe** and is baptized will be saved...”

The Protestant

•“He who believes and is **not baptized** will be saved...”

Jesus

•“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”



Which View Will You
Believe?