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The Thief on the Right & the Thief on the Left

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Bible Reading: Luke 23:33-35 (KJV)

³³ *And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.*

³⁴ *Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*

³⁵ *And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.*

Good morning everyone,

Today I would like to speak to you about the two thieves, one on the right, and one on the left that appear in the Bible together with Jesus. Jesus died on the cross but he came as the person who was the original substance of truth. He came as the seed of the truth. This seed, however as a result of his death was planted into that cross.

If you look at the first ten volumes of Father's selected sermons, you see that he speaks a great deal about Jesus. The sermons in the first ten volumes talk about Jesus' position, his circumstances, and the actions that he took. Every time Father gave those sermons he wept a great deal. Some days when he spoke, I remember, he would cry out loud, and ask, "How many Christians know the circumstances of Jesus? How many Christians know Jesus' heart?"

I could see for certain that no one in the world loved Jesus more than Father did. And I thought how Jesus must feel, to be in the spirit world and to see Father weeping so loudly; that must have made Jesus feel very painful.

When I heard Father speak this way, it amazed me that he knew so much about Jesus, about Jesus' circumstances and heart. I wondered how it was possible that he could know so much. I could see how deeply he loved Jesus and how close he was to him.

I witnessed that every time Father spoke about Jesus, it was not in a light-hearted way. I could see that Father possessed a tremendous knowledge that we were not aware of; there were

things that he understood that could not be expressed in words. I thought how Jesus listening to Father must have felt. Father was speaking about things that had been unknown, that Jesus could not reveal until then. I contemplated on how this was bringing complete unity between Father and Jesus.

When Jesus was crucified on the cross, it was a completely unjust situation. How terrible it must have been for him, and how wretched he must have felt to be killed this way! How much comfort it must have given Jesus to see that Father understood and that Father could feel his pain! How he must have then also told Father about his situation, and how he must have been comforted to see how Father was working to establish God's Kingdom on this earth!

But there was one man who lived as result of Jesus' crucifixion and that was Barabbas.

When Jesus was about to die on the cross, he said, "I will return." He said, "Although I go by the cross, I will also return by the cross." The environment that existed at Jesus' time is now bearing fruit on the world-wide level so there is that parallel, and Jesus said that it would be the time, that it would be the end times in which he would return.

The two thieves, of course, they had committed a lot of sins, a lot of thefts. Now the thief on the left, even though he had committed a lot of sins, refused to acknowledge them. In fact he accused Jesus. But the thief on the right was different: he realized and he could feel that God was a Living God, and that God was in charge of the situation.

The thief on the left was saying, "How can I be punished in this way? This is unfair. If there was a Living God, He would not allow this to be done." Jesus did not say anything then. The thief on the right said, "We are being punished according to our crimes." He said it was right that they be punished, but he acknowledged that Jesus had committed no crime, and that he was innocent. He implored Jesus, "When your Kingdom comes, please let me be with you."

Jesus said that in that day the thief on the right would go with him to paradise. The thief on the right received salvation at the moment of his death. So through history, it was the thief on the right who opened the gates to heaven. He stood at the forefront of the work to open the gates of heaven.

We can see that the kind of thinking espoused by communists and leftists that God is not real existed even in the time of Jesus, in the person of the thief on the left. This is why today the communist world is not able to endure any longer and is disappearing.

The thief on the right represents those who affirm that God is alive and active in our lives and that He is carrying out his spiritual works. The thief on the right testified that God was living, and we also must testify to that fact. So we must fight against Communism even putting our lives on the line, so we may bring salvation to the world.

This morning let's remind ourselves that God is alive. He is a Living God! We can see this through history. God knows the past, present and future, and He is active in the world today.

Today the world is in the era of individualism and is going further in that direction. Father often said that if America only lived for America, it would eventually disappear, or if the United Kingdom only lived for the UK it would also disappear, it could not last.

So we must plant the seeds of God's words, of God's will, and we must build families, nations and a world that will live for the sake of God's will. Let's live not just for the sake of our own country but for the world so that God's CIG can be established.

On the first day that I met Father there was something that he told me. He said, "The time is coming when everyone in the world will be able to live well. When this takes place, a kind of paradise will be established." Father came for the purpose of establishing CIG in this world and he spent his entire life doing everything he could to build it.

So we must live for the sake of CIG; whether we eat, we sleep or whatever we do must be for that purpose. We need to understand that we were born for the sake of CIG. Father explained that he could not sleep well at night, because he had to constantly focus on building CIG. He said, "Whenever I sit down, I don't just sit alone; I have to sit together with all the races of the world, so that everyone can work together to build this kingdom."

When Father sat down to a meal, he would not just eat by himself; he would think of what everyone else in the world was eating and he would say, "How wonderful it would be if everyone could share a meal together!" He would pray for that kind of a world to come, and sometimes he would declare that this type of world had already arrived.

He said, "The children of heaven must be able to sit in a position of glory that exceeds that of Satan, and God will have no choice but to love such children." He expressed how much sorrow it would bring to God if a son could not even be as much as Satan. So he maintained that sons and daughters of God needed to be able to exceed the position of Satan.

We also need to learn from the heart that was expressed by Father and move forward each day with such heart. Father always wanted us to join hands with people around the world. Father

would encourage us to establish a relationship with the entire world so we could work together in order to accomplish God's Kingdom. Let's also have the urgency that Father had for establishing God's kingdom, and when we do God's kingdom will truly come on this earth.

We are receiving a lot of persecution today, but let's not allow that persecution to make us weak. Instead let's move forward with the conviction that we are establishing God's Kingdom on this earth.

Father has established his successor; he has established his representative body and inheritor, and he is working through him. Father can rest now and he can feel comforted, but we need to work hard in order to accomplish his will.

I have contemplated how much Father must have been happy to be able to establish his representative body and his inheritor, to be able to pray over him, to crown him three times and to be able to give him the blessing of True Parents.

Today we need to become one with the 2nd King and Queen and make a firm determination that we will work to establish God's Kingdom on this earth together with them,

Thank you very much,

Video Source: <https://youtu.be/7JBWK1tYy4I?t=1537>