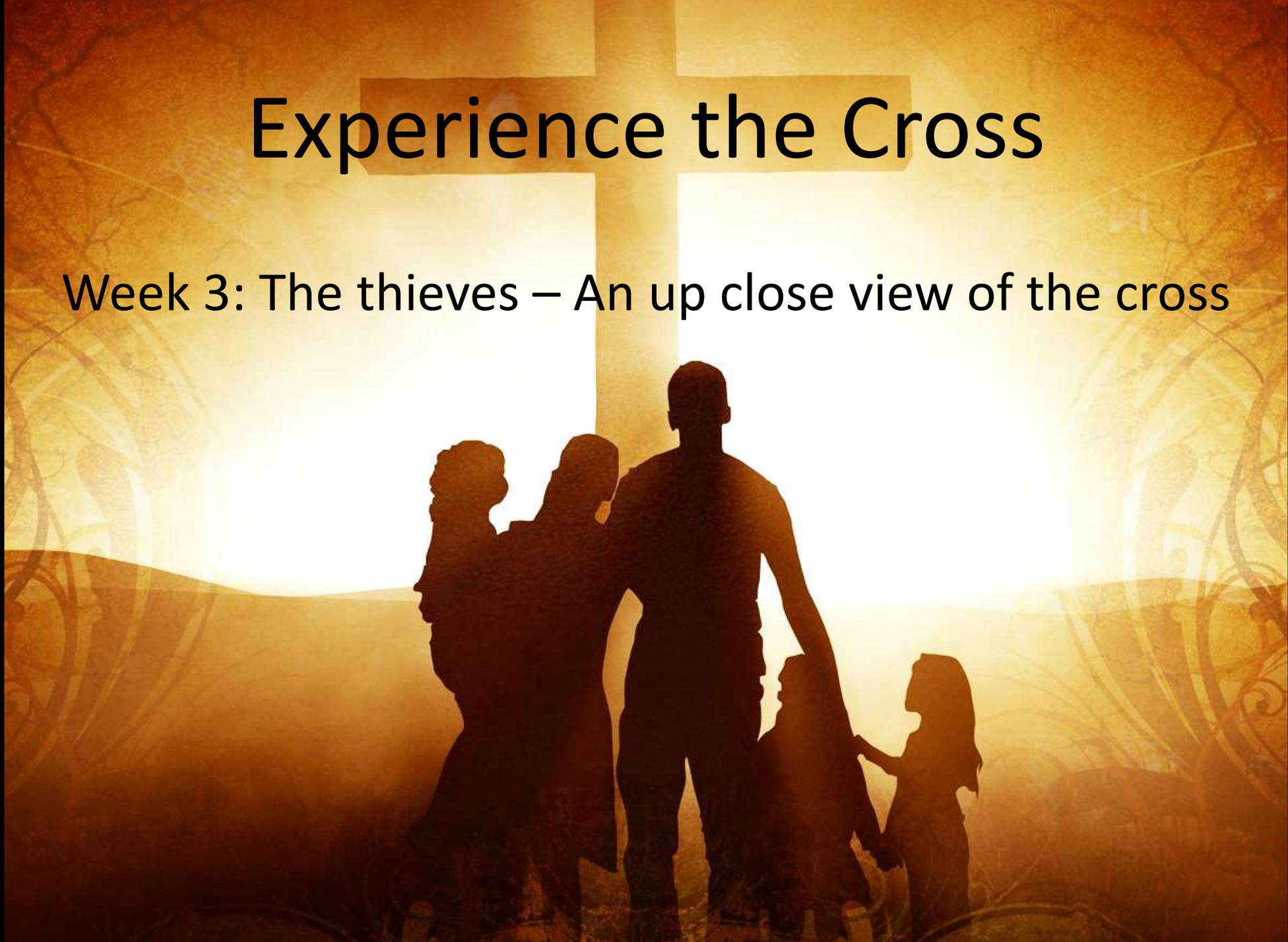


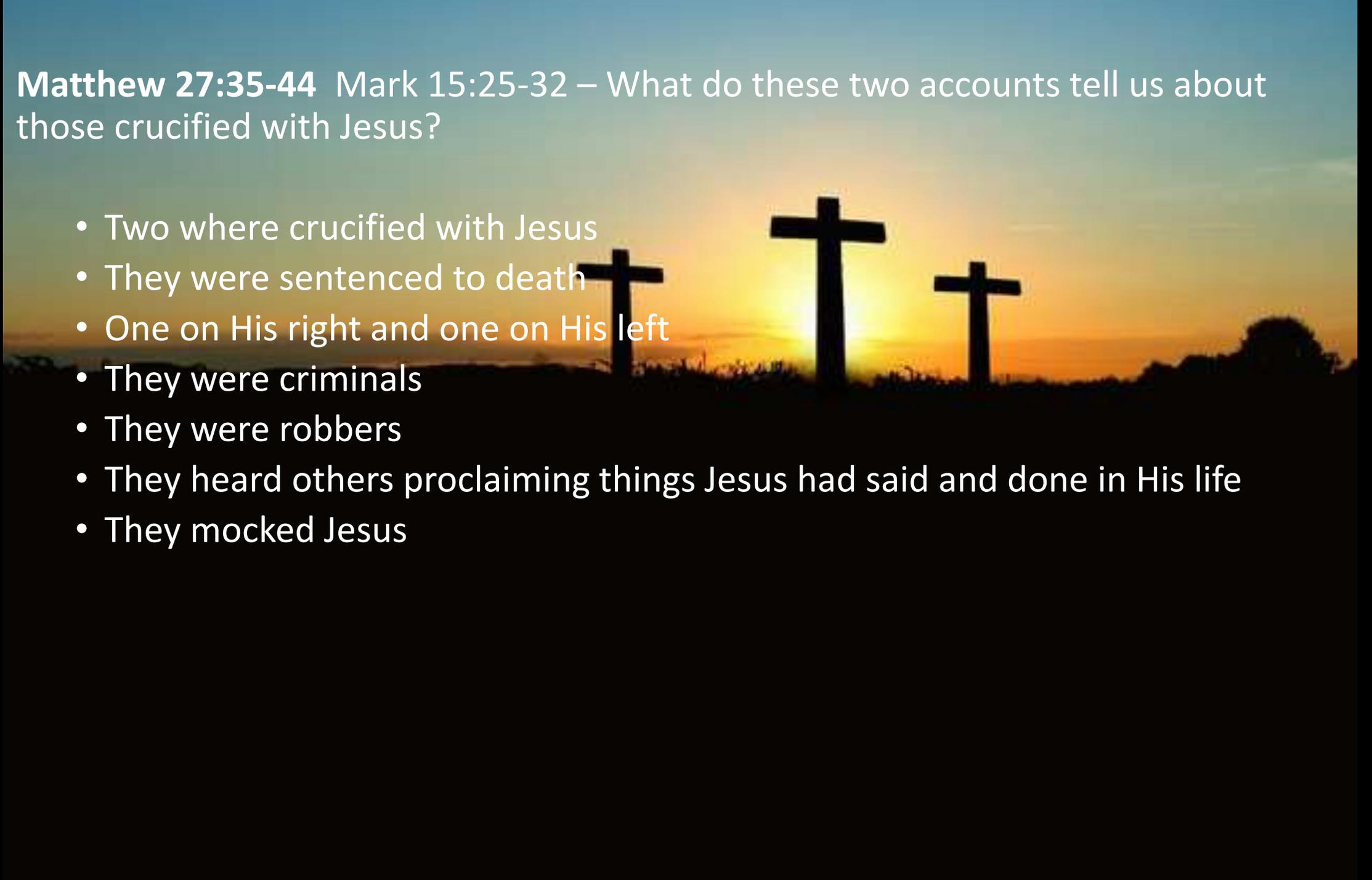
# Experience the Cross

Week 3: The thieves – An up close view of the cross



**Matthew 27:35-44** Mark 15:25-32 – What do these two accounts tell us about those crucified with Jesus?

- Two were crucified with Jesus
- They were sentenced to death
- One on His right and one on His left
- They were criminals
- They were robbers
- They heard others proclaiming things Jesus had said and done in His life
- They mocked Jesus



# Three lessons from the thief on the cross:

## Lesson 1 : Jesus Changes Hearts.

**When we witness Jesus character and really see Him it has the potential to powerfully transform us.**

- **The criminals see the forgiving heart of Christ – “Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”**
- **They hear the crowds proclaiming Jesus words and deeds. “He saved others...”**

**Mark 15:32 “Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.” NIV**

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## **Lesson 1 : Jesus Changes Hearts.**

**When we witness Jesus character and really see Him it has the potential to powerfully transform us.**

- **The criminals see the forgiving heart of Christ – “Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”**
- **They hear the crowds proclaiming Jesus words and deeds. “He saved others...”**
- **Two men start from a similar place, mocking Jesus, one remains hard in his heart and one repents and sees the truth**

## Lesson 2: The Grace of God is a gift not a wage.

- Repentance verses Merit



## Luke 18:18-27

A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

19 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good — except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'"

21 "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.

22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

23 When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. 24 Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! 25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

26 Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?"

27 Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

NIV

## Lesson 2: The Grace of God is a gift not a wage.

- Repentance verses Merit
- What is the path that leads away from sin and death and into Grace and heart transformation?
  - Repentance and Reliance

## Lesson 3: When God seems dead, Hold on! He Has A Plan!

- Do your observations effect your faith?
- What determines your level of faith in a situation?

Circumstance - Jesus crying out to the Father, "Why have you forsaken me?" Jesus breathes His last and dies. The soldiers come to break the thief's legs and finish him off...

God's Word - "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Lesson 1 : Jesus Changes Hearts.

Lesson 2: The Grace of God is a gift not a wage.

Lesson 3: When God seems dead, Hold on! He Has A Plan!

- Is your faith currently lead by your circumstance or by God's Word?

