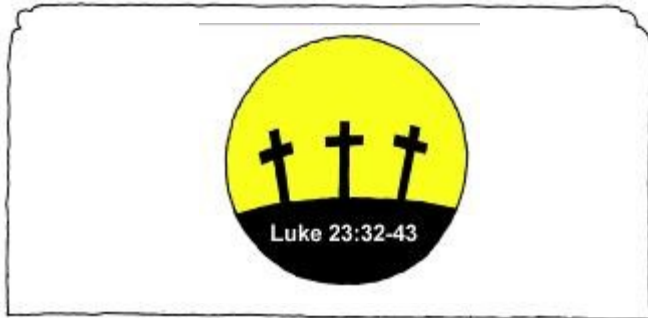


THE thief on the cross

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By Jill Kemp

Illustrated by Richard Gunther



Two thieves saw and heard everything that happened when Jesus was being crucified. Only one repented and was saved.



Jesus was crucified on a cross between two bad men who were being punished for stealing other people's things.



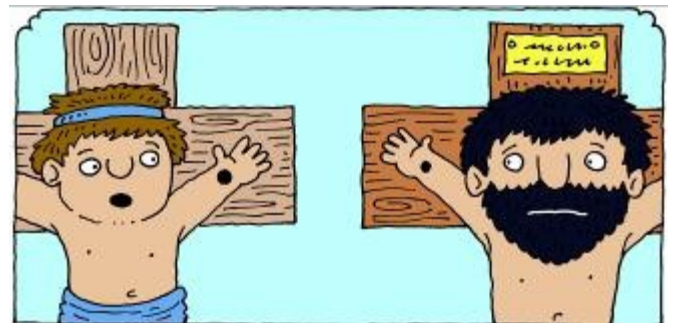
A Roman soldier nailed some words on the cross above Jesus. The words said, "This Is The King Of The Jews."



People in the crowd bowed down and made fun of Jesus, saying, "He saved others, so let him save himself if he is God's promised Messiah."



One of the bad men said to Jesus, "If you really are the promised Christ, then save yourself and save us too."



The other thief was sorry for all the bad things that he had done. "God knows that we deserve to pay for what we did, but Jesus has done nothing wrong."



"Jesus," he said, "remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered, "I tell you truthfully that today you will be with me in paradise!"



The man was forgiven and his heart was filled with peace and joy because he believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God.