

Last Resort
March 27, 2022

How many times have you said, I don't know what else to do, or I'm at the end of my rope, what do we do next, or where do we go from here? All of these questions reflect a condition, a predicament, an extraordinary circumstance. These situations reflect a feeling of having run out of options, at the end of earthly wisdom of knowing where to go next.

Sometimes these earthly situations require a call for help. We simply need someone else's help. Often times we reach out to dad or mom, or maybe you are a point of asking your grown children for help. We may call a brother or sister in the church, or a nearby neighbor. Sometimes, the situation is beyond any of their capability to resolve.

A couple of years ago I got a call that my daughter and a friend were stuck in 4 feet of snow in Central Oregon. Even though I got the call, it was beyond my capability to help. This time dad just wasn't able to rise to the occasion, in fact, I wasn't even gonna pay the tow bill. When the towing company has to haul a earth moving caterpillar in to clear the road, you really are at the end of the rope.

Sometimes that is exactly where we end up spiritually. At times we search for answers, try to solve life's problems, try to dig ourselves out of our own messes and sin.

I have noticed a towing business in the Willamette Valley called Last Resort Towing. I had seen the trucks around and even gave a friend a ride who was having their vehicle hauled away by this company. It wasn't until one of trucks came along side me on the freeway that I noticed the design of the company logo.



That was the first time I saw the formation of the "T's". You can see what I am talking about.

The services they provide that I found listed on their website is obviously towing, but flat repair, jump starting a car, getting in to a locked car, and providing fuel if you have run out. Obviously, all conditions that will leave a person stranded.

The three crosses, immediately took my mind, and takes our minds this morning to hill called Golgotha, Mt. Calvary. The hill on which our Savior, Jesus Christ, didn't just "die", but was brutally crucified. The most humiliating and torturous

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death possible, reserved for the greatest of criminal. For one of the thieves being crucified as well, recognizing that Jesus was the promised Messiah, the Son of God, the King of the Jews, he was the last resort. In his dying moments, the thief pleads:

Luke 23:43-44 Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom. And Jesus said to him, “truly you I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise”.

We also are here today knowing that we can not save ourselves from the penalty of our sin. We are like those jews on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:37 after having their eyes open to who Jesus is, responded to the apostles with the question, “Brethren, what shall we do?”. They had become acutely aware of their sin, they recognized that they couldn’t fix themselves. Peter spoke the words of salvation to them when he said in Acts 2:38 “Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Peter tells them they must repent and be baptized to be forgiven of their sins, and Hebrews 9:22b states:” Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins”.

Jesus’ death on the cross, the place in which his life was sacrificed, his blood was shed is what makes even the ability to be forgiven possible.

Please focus your mind with me today on Jesus and the debt that he paid for us, for without his death on the cross, we would be eternally stranded.

Prayer:

Father in Heaven, thank you for this time today when we can stop, in peace, and quiet, and remember Jesus. We remember his life, his death, and his resurrection. As your word reminds us that it is through His shed blood that we can be forgiven, we remember that at this time as we partake of the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine. Bless our meditation, bless these emblems, and please forgive our sins. In Jesus name, Amen.