ETERNITY THROUGH SALVATION

LUKE 23:32-43

Long ago, I saw my Savior,
Bearing shame upon a tree;
Then my heart was touched with sorrow,
For I saw He bled for me.

Lo, the sky was veiled in darkness; Sudden trembling shook the ground As the angry crowd was jeering, Mocking Jesus all around.

Then my Savior called to Heaven
As I saw His love anew,
"O my Father, please forgive them
For they know not what they do."

Free salvation now He offers;
Take His gift, oh, hear His plea;
On the bloody Cross behold Him
Join His shout of victory.

(Luke 23:32-35) And there were <u>also two other</u> malefactors, led with Him to be put to death.

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.

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

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.

(Luke 23:36-38) And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming to Him, and offering Him vinegar,

And saying, If You be the King of the Jews, save Yourself.

And a <u>superscription</u> also was written over Him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, <u>THIS IS THE KING OF THE</u> <u>JEWS.</u>

(Luke 23:39-41) And one of the malefactors which were hanged <u>railed on Him</u>, saying, If You be Christ, save Yourself and us.

But the other answering rebuked him, saying, **Dost not thou fear God**, seeing you are in the same condemnation?

And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

(Luke 23:42-43) And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

And Jesus said unto him, <u>Verily I say unto you, Today shall</u> you be with Me in paradise.

Introduction:

A. No accident at all:

- God was presiding
 (Acts 4:28) For to do whatsoever Thy hand and Thy counsel determined before to be done.
- Prophecy of 700 years being fulfilled
 (Isa. 53:12) ... and <u>He was numbered with the transgressors</u>; and <u>He bare the sin</u> of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Introduction:

- B. Reasons for being with thieves:
- 1. The unfathomable depth of shame shown
- 2. His position as our substitute
- 3. Man's estimate of the Peerless One
- 4. Representation of God's salvation and man's response

(Matt. 27:44) The thieves also, which were crucified with Him, <u>cast the same</u> in his teeth.

A. By nature, at enmity against God

(Jer 17:9) The **heart is deceitful** above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

(Rom. 8:7) Because <u>the carnal mind is enmity</u> against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

B. By practice – robbers of God

- 1. <u>Slave to sin</u> (John 8:34) *Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever* <u>committeth sin is the servant of sin</u>.
- Slave to Satan
 (2 Tim. 2:26) And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.
- 3. <u>Jesus had destroyed works of Satan</u> (1 John 3:8) He <u>that committeth sin is of the devil</u>; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that <u>He might destroy the works of the devil.</u>

- B. By practice robbers of God (continued)
 - 4. We rob God:
 - a. Of worship due to Him
 - b. Of honor due to Him
 - c. Of glory due to Him
 - d. Of grace due to Him
 - e. Of fellowship due to Him
 - f. Of our glory in His Image

- B. By practice robbers of God (continued)
 - 5. Ruin pervades in these arenas:
 - a. Ruined bodies
 - b. Ruined relationships
 - c. Ruined minds
 - d. Ruined emotions
 - e. Ruined choices

(2) THE THIEF REPENTING

(Luke 23:40) But the other answering rebuked him, saying, **Do not you fear God**, seeing you are in the same condemnation?

(Luke 23:41) And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

(2) THE THIEF REPENTING

A. His Helplessness

- came to an end himself
 (Rom. 5:6) For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
- like the Prodigal Son
 (Luke 15:14, 17) And when he had spent all ... And when he came to himself ...

(2) THE THIEF REPENTING

B. His Sinfulness - Do not you fear God?

- 1. Not just a change of mind about sin
- 2. More, the judging of self, the lost condition
- 3. Owning of guilt and justice of condemnation

(Luke 23:42) And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

A. Head Faith

- the means, the truth

(2 Thess. 2:13) ... because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

(2 Cor. 13:8) For we can do <u>nothing against the truth</u>, but for the truth.

Superscription – intellect and intelligence

(Luke 23:42) And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. (continued)

B. Heart Faith

- resting savingly on Christ alone
- 1. Saving faith transcends all reason:
 - a. Was it possible for the Crucified One to be able to save him?
 - b. Was it reasonable that Christ should notice him?

(Luke 23:42) And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. (continued)

- **B.** Heart Faith (continued)
 - resting savingly on Christ alone
 - 2. Faith on:
 - a. His sinlessness
 - b. His Godhead (Lord)
 - c. His Saviorhood
 - d. His Kingship
 - e. His Second Coming

(Rom. 10:9) That if you shall <u>confess with your mouth</u> the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God had raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

(Luke 23:42) And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. (continued)

C. Humble Faith

- not honor, but remember me
- 1. <u>Including "save me"</u>
 (1 Tim. 1:15) *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*
- 2. Plus all the benefits of salvation

(Luke 23:42) And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. (continued)

D. Courageous Faith

- all were against Christ
- 1. Declared His innocence and Saviorhood
- 2. Condemned the Jewish leaders
- 3. Cut himself off from all man's favor

(Matt. 10:32-33) Whosoever therefore shall <u>confess Me</u> before men, him <u>will I confess also before My Father</u> which is in heaven.

But whosoever shall <u>deny Me</u> before men, him <u>will I also</u> <u>deny</u> before My Father which is in heaven.

(Luke 23:43) And Jesus said unto him, <u>Verily I say unto you,</u> <u>To day shall you be with Me in paradise.</u>

A. His Readiness

- no condemnation
- His mission
 (Luke 19:10) For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
- His promise
 (John 6:37) All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me; and him that comes to Me I will in no wise cast out.

(Psa. 34:18) The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

(Luke 23:43) And Jesus said unto him, <u>Verily I say unto you,</u> <u>To day shall you be with Me in paradise</u>.

B. His Power

- infinite sufficiency
- Lived by God's power
 (2 Cor. 13:4) For though He was crucified through weakness, yet He lives by the power of God.
- He ever lives to save
 (Heb. 7:25) Wherefore He is <u>able also to save</u> them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing <u>He ever lives</u> to make intercession for them.

(Luke 23:43) And Jesus said unto him, <u>Verily I say unto you,</u> <u>Today shall you be with Me in paradise</u>.

B. His Power

infinite sufficiency (continued)

If a dying Savior could save, how much more HE who rose in triumph, never more to die!

3. The power of the Gospel - (Rom. 1:16) For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...

(Luke 23:43) And Jesus said unto him, <u>Verily I say unto you,</u> <u>Today shall you be with Me in paradise</u>.

C. His Eternal desire

- "with ME"
- 1. Fellowship with Jesus (1Co 1:9) God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the **fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.**
- 2. <u>Heaven with Christ</u> (Psa. 73:25) Whom <u>have I in heaven</u> <u>but thee?</u> and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.
 - (2 Cor. 5:8) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and **to be present with the Lord.**

(Eph. 3:20) Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, And he said unto Jesus And Jesus said unto him Lord Verily I say unto you Remember me Shall you be with Me When You come Today Into Your Kingdom In Paradise

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TODAY?

(Heb. 3:15) While it is said, <u>Today if ye will hear His voice</u>, <u>harden not your hearts</u>, as in the provocation.

(Isa. 1:18) <u>Come now, and let us reason together</u>, says the LORD: though <u>your sins be as scarlet</u>, they shall be as <u>white as snow</u>; though they be <u>red like crimson</u>, they shall be <u>as wool</u>.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TODAY?

(Deut. 30:19) I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both you and your seed may live.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TODAY?

(2 Cor. 5:15) And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.

(Phil. 1:21) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

ASSIGNMENTS

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- A. Please go through the audio twice and share three blessings that you have received. Be specific and in detail. What are the blessings? Why are you blessed? How do you apply them to stretch and grow?
- B. Please share three ways how you can use the teaching in your ministry. Please give examples of the issues and your plans to resolve them and to grow. Use the what, why, when, who, where and how you will be sharing with others. Think through and be specific.



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