

## MESSAGE: The Men On The Cross Next To Jesus

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**April 8<sup>th</sup> Bible Study Homework:** The Bible emphasizes that God's sheep "**know His voice**". What scripture is this and explain it.

**Luke 23:38-43** New King James Version:

**v38** - And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

**v39** - Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

**v40** - But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?"

**v41** - And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."

**V42** - Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

**V43** - And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

**According to the Gospel of Luke, two criminals were crucified alongside Jesus. One on His right and one on His left.**

**#1: The Insult:** One criminal mocked Jesus, saying, "**Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!**" (Luke 23:39).

**#2: The Rebuking:** The other criminal rebuked the first, acknowledging their own guilt while testifying to Jesus' innocence: "**We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong**" (Luke 23:40–41).

**#3: The Request:** He then said, "**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom**" (Luke 23:42).

**#4: The Promise:** Jesus replied with the famous assurance, "**Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise**" (Luke 23:43).

**Keys to this lesson:**

Jesus promised to see the second thief in Paradise **because of the man's demonstrated faith and humble repentance in his final moments.**

**#1: Recognition of Jesus' True Identity:** Unlike the first criminal, who mocked Jesus, the second thief recognized Jesus as a King with a real, eternal kingdom. Even as Jesus was dying in agony, the thief saw him as a Savior capable of remembering him after death.

**#2: Sincere Repentance:** The thief admitted his own guilt and acknowledged that he was "punished justly" for his deeds. By rebuking the other criminal and testifying to Jesus' innocence ("this man has done nothing wrong"), he showed a profound internal transformation.

**#3: Salvation by Grace, Not Works:** The thief's situation is often cited as the ultimate example of grace through faith. Because he was physically pinned to a cross, he had no opportunity to perform "**good works, undergo baptism, or join a church; his simple, heart-felt request—"Jesus, remember me"—was sufficient for Jesus to grant him salvation.**

**#4. Reassurance in Agony:** Jesus used the word "**Paradise**" to offer a comforting contrast to the "**agony**" of the crucifixion. It assured the suffering man that his next conscious experience would be one of peace and close companionship with Jesus.

**AMEN ....**

**Homework:** What Gethsemane means, Where was it located and Symbolism.

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### Comparison Across the Gospels:

While Luke provides the detailed dialogue of the man's repentance, the other Gospels also mention the two men crucified with Jesus:

- **Matthew 27:38, 44:** Notes that two "robbers" were crucified with Him and mentions that initially, both reviled Him.
- **Mark 15:27, 32:** Also records two "robbers" being crucified and joining in the insults from the crowd.
- **John 19:18:** Simply states that two others were crucified with Him, "one on either side, and Jesus in the middle".