



Words of Promise and Peace
Luke 23:38-43

Luke 23:38-43 (NIV)

There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

I. Two Condemned Criminals

Isaiah 53:12 (ESV)

He poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

James 2:10 (HCSB)

For whoever keeps the entire law, yet fails in one point, is guilty of breaking it all.

II. Two Remarkable Responses

Verse 39 – "One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, 'Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!'"

- Prideful Rejection

"Until this moment I thought there was neither a God nor a hell. Now I know and feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty." - Sir Thomas Scott

"You need not tell me there is no God for I know there is one! You need not tell me there is no hell. I feel myself already slipping. Millions and millions of years will bring me no nearer the end of my torments than one poor hour. Oh, eternity, eternity forever and forever! Oh, the insufferable pangs of Hell!" - Sir Francis Newport

- Personal Repentance

Verse 40-42 – “But the other criminal rebuked him. ‘Don’t you fear God,’ he said, ‘since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’”

III. One Powerful Promise

Verse 43 - “Jesus answered him, ‘I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.’”

- One Great Moment
- One Great Place
- One Great Presence

William Cowper
“There Is a Fountain”

“There is a fountain filled with blood; drawn from Emmanuel’s veins; and sinners
plunged beneath that flood; lose all their guilty stains.”

“The dying thief rejoiced to see; that fountain in his day; and there may I; though vile
as He; wash all my sins away.”