

Truth that Transforms!

Luke 23:39-43 (NASB 2020) One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" But the other responded, and rebuking him, said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our crimes; but this Man has done nothing wrong." And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

John 8:31-33 (NASB 2020) So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

I. Transformation

Luke 23:42 (NASB 2020) And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!"

He did not start out this way!

****Matthew 27:38-44 (NASB 2020)** And the rebels who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him in the same way.

****Mark 15:27-32 (NASB 2020)** Let this Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe!" Those who were crucified with Him were also insulting Him.

My question is this: What did Jesus say to this man in 6 hours to get him to change his mind on who He was? What do we know about salvation?

Confess our sinful state:

Luke 23:40-41 (NASB 2020) But the other responded, and rebuking him, said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our crimes; but this Man has done nothing wrong."

Confession of Jesus as Lord:

Luke 23:40, 42 (NASB 2020) But the other responded, and rebuking him, said, "Do you not even fear God, vs. 42 And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!"

Romans 10:9 (NASB 2020) that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

What was it that caused this man to be saved? The first step was his willingness to admit the truth: he was a sinner!

II. The truth about ourselves is the first step to freedom

Luke 23:40-41 (NASB 2020) But the other responded, and rebuking him, said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our crimes;

But what about believers

Hebrews 5:11-14 (NLT) There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. Vs. 14 Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

Hebrews 6:1 (NLT) So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God.

It's not a matter of being sin conscience, but rather truth conscience!

****James 3:14 (NASB 2020)** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

James 3:14 (TPT) But if there is bitter jealousy or competition hiding in your heart, then don't deny it and try to compensate for it by boasting and being phony.

III. The Blessing of Truth

Matthew 5:3 (AMP) Blessed (happy, to be envied, and spiritually prosperous—with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the poor in spirit (the humble, who rate themselves insignificant), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!

Matthew 5:4 (AMP) Blessed and enviably happy [with a happiness produced by the experience of God's favor and especially conditioned by the revelation of His matchless grace] are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted!

Proverbs 28:13 (NLT) People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

1 John 1:9 (NASB 2020) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 3:19-20 (NLT) Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord...

IV. Steps to Transformation and Freedom

John 8:31-33 (NASB 2020) So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT) For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires....

Hebrews 4:12 (TLB)... it is sharper than the sharpest dagger, cutting swift and deep into our innermost thoughts and desires with all their parts, exposing us for what we really are.

The Church

****Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)** Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

1 Timothy 3:15 (NASB 2020) but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one should act in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

James 5:16 (NLT) Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

2 Samuel 12:5-7 (NASB 2020) Then David's anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this certainly deserves to die! So he must make restitution for the lamb four times over, since he did this thing and had no compassion." Nathan then said to David, "You yourself are the man!"

Galatians 6:1-2 (NASB 2020) Brothers and sisters, even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you are not tempted as well. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.