

The Power of God's Kindness

March 31, 2024 (Easter Sunday)

*Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that **God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?** (Romans 2:4)*

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ... One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "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." (Luke 23:32-43)

GOD'S kindness leads to our repentance.

- *The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." (John 10:31-33)*
- *But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." (Mark 14:61-62)*

God's kindness leads to our REPENTANCE.

- *"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." (Luke 5:32)*
- *"No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:5)*
- *Repentance: A complete and irreversible change of mind, heart, and actions. "A complete change of orientation involving a judgment upon the past and a deliberate redirection for the future." (Eerdmans Bible Dictionary)*

God's KINDNESS leads to our repentance.

- *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17)*
- *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)*

Pastor's Challenge: What Fresh Easter Story Does God Want To Write For You Today?

- *"You believe there is one God, but even the demons believe and tremble." (James 1:9)*
- *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)*