

Today, You'll Be With Me In Paradise

The Last Words of Jesus, part 2 Pastor Craig Ferguson

One of the criminals hanging beside Jesus hurled insults at him. 'So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself - and us, too, while you're at it!' But the other criminal rebuked him, 'Don't you fear God even when you are dying? We deserve to die for our evil deeds, but this man has not done anything wrong!' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.' And Jesus replied, 'I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

Luke

23:39-43 (NLT)

Five facts the dying man knew

1. He knew he would face God after death

Don't you fear God even when you are dying? Luke 23:40 (NIV)

Everyone must die once, and after that be judged by God. Hebrews 9:27 (TEV)

2. He knew he had sinned against God

We deserve to die for our evil deeds... Luke 23:41 (NIV)

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

3. He knew Jesus was more than a man

...But this man has not done anything wrong! Luke 23:41 (NIV)

There is not a single person in all the earth who is always good and never sins.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NLT)

God had Christ, who was sinless, take our sin so that we might receive God's approval through him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (GW)

4. He knew that only grace could save him

Then he said, Jesus, remember me... Luke 23:42 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

5. He knew that Jesus would save him if he asked

...when you come into your Kingdom. Luke 23:42 (NIV)

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved... Acts 16:31 (NIV)

Four characteristics of real salvation

Jesus replied, 'I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

Luke 23:43

(NIV)

1. Salvation is immediate

2. Salvation is certain

3. Salvation is found in relationship

4. Salvation is in a real place

...This is the hour to receive God's favor; today
is the day to be saved!

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Corinthians 6:2 (TEV)

Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be
saved. *Romans 10:13 (NLT)*