

Words from the Cross

“Today You Shall Be with Me in Paradise”

Luke 23:39-43 (NASB)

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, “Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” ⁴³ And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

Today we hear about the two criminals that were crucified with Jesus. One did not believe, and one had great faith in Jesus. The criminal with great faith asks Jesus to remember him when Jesus enters His kingdom. Jesus gives this man a promise of entry into eternal paradise with God. Today, followers of Jesus have also been promised eternal life with God in Heaven. Are you like the criminal that believed or the one that did not believe?

1. **Unbelief** in Jesus leads to death.

Luke 23:39; John 3:18-19; Romans 6:23

2. **Faith and belief** in Jesus leads to eternal life.

Luke 23:40-43; Genesis 12:1-3; 2 Samuel 7:16; Psalm 93:1-2; Isaiah 9:6-7; Mark 1:15; John 3:16; John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Application questions:

1. Does your hope in eternity with God change the way you live today?
2. Do you trust in and rest in the promises of God?
3. If you are not a Christian, would you follow Jesus today to receive the promise of eternal life?