

**"The Word Of Salvation"**  
**Luke 23:33-43**  
**Good Friday, March 29, 2024**

**Picture - Rembrandt's "The Three Crosses." (1653)**

**From The Cross, Jesus Christ Speaks "Seven Words"** which reveals God's answer to mankind's greatest need, which is spiritual. (Man's Need of Salvation)

**"Seven Last Words of Jesus"** are extremely important to us because of **the Person (Jesus) who spoke them!**

**"Seven Last Words of Jesus"** are extremely important to us because of **the Place Jesus spoke them!** Jesus was **accomplishing His greatest work,** and He uttered His **greatest words!**

**1<sup>st</sup> Word A Prayer For His Enemies,**

Now, the **2<sup>nd</sup> Word** is **The Answer To His Prayer** (repentant sinner), which gave assurance that he was going to heaven.

**Our passage is recorded exclusively in Luke 23:39-43**

**Thought Of The Passage:** "The Word Of Salvation Reminds Us That The Worst Of Sinners May Believe By Faith And Receive Salvation."

- 1. Verses 33-41 Miraculous Setting:**
- 2. Verse 42 Miraculous Supplication:**
- 3. Verse 43 Miraculous Salvation:**

**1. Verses 33-41 Miraculous Setting:**

**Luke 23:33**

**Only the Gospel of Luke records the conversion of the one criminal!**

The term **criminal** – is "*wrong, or, wicked.*" This is the classic bad guy

**Matthew 27:44 The robbers who had been crucified with Him**

**robbers** - the Greek word means "*one who uses violence to rob openly*"

**These Robbers represent all of sinful humanity (sinners) that have robbed God of what is rightfully His! Romans 3:23**

**Jesus Crucified With Two Criminals Fulfills Scripture:  
one on the right and the other on the left.**

The final insult, but God was in it! **Mark 15:27-28**

**700 Years Before - Isaiah 53:12**

**The Most Holy should die with those who were Most Unholy!**

**Matthew 1:21; 20:28**

**God's Gracious Providence Upon The Cross:**

**Providence – "seeing beforehand"**

*There are no accidents with God. God has appointments.*

**Luke 23:39 One of the criminals**

**Both Criminals Prayed: (Petition Jesus)**

**Marks 15:32**

**Luke 23:40 But the other answered, and rebuking him said,**

**"Do you not even fear God,**

He not only stops mocking Jesus, but now he is rebuking his partner in crime.

**since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? Hebrews 9:27**

**Verse 41 Criminal Confessed His Sinfulness And His Just Punishment:**

**The genuine conversion must be preceded by the realization of our sinfulness and thus taking responsibility for our own actions.**

**He Acknowledged The Sinless Deity Of Christ:**

**but this man has done nothing wrong."**

**This suggests five things that possibly brought this criminal to his senses.**

**1. When Jesus Spoke Forgiveness: Luke 23:34** That's divine!

**2. Jesus' Relationship To God: "Father,**

A relationship with the Father is national but not individual.

**3. Jesus Uttered No Words Of Revenge: 1 Peter 2:22-23**

**4. Both Criminals Could Read The Inscription Above His Head:**

**Luke 23:38** (First Gospel tract written in 3 languages)

**5. The Criminal Being Confronted With His Own Mortality:**

**No one is ever saved by accident.**

**God sets up situations in order to give us opportunities to trust in Him:**

**1 Timothy 2:3-4**

**Luke 23:41 but this man has done nothing wrong."**

**A Change Of Mind And Heart Want Others To Change To:**

## **2. Verse 42 Miraculous Supplication:**

**Luke 23:42 And he was saying, (*Requesting In Prayer*)**  
This is what is truly called **"A Deathbed Conversion."**

**Criminal Surrendered To Jesus As Lord:**

**"Jesus, remember me** or simply said, *"Save me!" "Have mercy on me!"*  
**Matthew 5:3**

**Criminal Acknowledged Jesus As Lord:**

**(Jesus Has The Kingdom) when You come in Your kingdom!"**

**The prayer that this criminal prayed revealed greatness. Romans 10:12**

**The Criminal Feared God: Luke 23:40 "Do you not even fear God,**

**The Criminal Confessed His Guilt: Luke 23:41**

**The Criminal Knew That Jesus Would Return And That Jesus Was A King Over A Kingdom: "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!"**

**Salvation Is A Gracious Gift From God: Ephesians 2:8-9**  
**(The Gift is Not Faith But The Gift Is Salvation)**

**The thief had courage. He did not care what the other thief, the religious leaders, or even the crowd thought!**

## **3. Verse 43 Miraculous Salvation:**

**Luke 23:43 A Certain And Secure Salvation:**

**And He said to him, "Truly I say**

*"This is an absolute truth, this is a true statement!"*

**We have the assurance of His Word. 1 John 5:13**

**Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." You can't save people who don't know that they are lost!**

**Salvation Is Personal: "Truly I say to you, Galatians 2:20**

**Salvation Is Present Tense: today Salvation is now!**

The man said, **"Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!"**

Sometime in the future but Jesus said it was today!

**This is a death blow to the doctrine of "Soul Sleeping."**

**Salvation Is Exclusive In Jesus Christ:**

**you shall be with Me 1 Corinthians 1:9**

**Life Continues After Physical Death:**

**Salvation Is Glorious: in Paradise."** Persian word meaning *"a walled garden, garden place, a place of beauty and repose"*  
**"You shall be with me"** said Jesus. **Paradise** is used **two times** in the NT  
**2 Corinthians 12:4' Revelation 2:7**

**John 14:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:8**

**This Word From The Cross Teaches Some Wonderful Truths.**

**The Way of Salvation Is Amazingly Simple:  
Romans 10:13**

**This Word From The Cross Reminds Us That The Worst Of Sinners May Be Saved: Romans 6:23**

**Application:**

1. Genuine Conversion Must Be Preceded By The Realization Of Our Sinfulness And Then Taking Responsibility For Our Own Actions. Repentance, Then Faith Towards God.
2. No One Knows The Time Of His or Her Death. Millions Die Unexpectedly Without A Minutes Warning To Think About God. **2 Corinthians 6:2**
3. Most People Who Reject The Gospel When They Are Healthy Also Reject It When It Is Time To Die. As We Get Older, Our Hearts Move Closer To God Or Further Away. (Remember The Other Thief) **Hebrews 2:3**
4. There Is A Dual Tug Upon All Persons. The Eternal Pull Of Evil, And The Eternal Pull Of God's Spirit. No Neutrality! **Isaiah 55:6-7**