

Seven Words from Jesus on the Cross

#2. ASSURANCE

March 27th, 2011

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**

5 Facts the Dying Man Knew:

1. That he'd face God after death.

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

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

2. He had sinned against God.

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

Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. That Jesus was more than a man.

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

Ecclesiastes 7:20 There is not a single person in all the earth who is always good and never sins.

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

4. That only grace could save him

Luke 23:42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me..."

Ephesians 2:8-9 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.

5. That Jesus would save him if he asked

Luke 23:42 ...when you come into your Kingdom.

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

What is my assurance of salvation?

The promise of God's Word

Luke 23:43 Jesus replied, 'I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

It is immediate - *"Today"*

It is certain - *"you will"*

It is a relationship - *"be with me"*

It is a place forever - *"in paradise"*

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.

1 John 5:13 I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.

When Can I be Saved?

2 Corinthians 6:2 ...This is the hour to receive God's favor; today is the day to be saved!

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