

The 2nd Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, February 21, 2016
“Famous Last Words ~ The Word of Assurance”

Criminal = ‘kaak-oor-gos’ =

“Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him.” (Mark 15:32)

At some point, one of the criminals had a _____ of heart.

He knew that He _____ Jesus and in that moment, he made a choice—a choice that would change not only what little life he had left, but his life in _____ as well.

Insults = ‘blas-phem-eo’ =

4 THINGS ABOUT THE THIEF’S CONFESSION

• **He acknowledged the _____ of God.**

“Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die?” (Luke 23:40)

• **He acknowledged his own _____.**

“And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds...” (Luke 23:41a)

• **He acknowledge that Jesus was _____.**

“...but this man has done nothing wrong.” (Luke 23:41b)

• **He acknowledged his need for _____.**

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” (Luke 23:42)

5 THINGS ABOUT JESUS’ RESPONSE

“And Jesus replied, ‘I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.’” (Lk 23:43)

• **The _____ of it.**

“I tell you the truth...”

The salvation that Jesus brought to the man wasn’t an ‘I guess so,’ salvation or an ‘I hope so,’ salvation—it was _____.

• **The _____ of it.**

“Today...”

Salvation isn’t just about going to heaven when we die. It’s not just a _____ event, it’s a _____.

“Today salvation has come to this house” (Luke 19:9)

• **The _____ of it.**

“You...”

Instead of giving him what he _____, He gave him _____.

• **The _____ of it.**

“Will be with me...”

To be saved is to be _____ with Christ. Our union with Jesus is such that His _____ is with us today—this is His promise to us in _____.

And we will be _____ with Him one day—this is His promise to us in _____.

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

• **The _____ of it.**

“in paradise...”

Jesus promised him a place in n His _____ kingdom—a place where there will be no more tears, no more sorrow, no more pain, and no more death.

Scripture is clear that we can know for _____ whether or not we are saved.

“And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God’s Son does not have life. 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.” (1 John 5:11-13)

THE BLESSED ASSURANCE THAT WE HAVE IN JESUS

#1. We can have the blessed assurance that on the cross, Jesus has _____ our _____.

“God sent Christ Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to end all of God’s anger against us.” (Romans 3:25)

“Christ took away the curse the law put on us. He changed places with us.” (Galatians 3:13)

When we break God’s laws, we have to pay God’s _____.

“The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23)

“God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. In exchange He poured God’s goodness into us.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

“There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)

#2. We can have the blessed assurance that on the cross, Jesus has _____ our _____.

“He gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone.” (1 Timothy 2:6)

In a spiritual sense, we were all _____ to sin until Jesus purchased us and set us _____.

“You are a slave to whatever controls you.” (2 Peter 2:19)

“Don’t be a slave of your desires living like people who don’t know God.” (1 Thess. 4:5)

“Freedom is what we have. Christ has set us free. So stand then as free people and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again.” (Galatians 5:1)

“We can never redeem ourselves. We cannot pay God the price for our lives because the payment for human life is too great.” (Psalm 49:7)

#3. We can have the blessed assurance that on the cross, Jesus has _____ our _____ with God.

Through the cross, Jesus _____ us to God. He _____ our relationship to God and like a _____, spanned the gap between a sinful people and a holy God.

“We were God’s enemies but He made us His friends through the death of His Son.” (Romans 5:10)

“Christ changed us from enemies into His friends and gave us the task of making others His friends also...” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

#4. We can have the blessed assurance that on the cross, Jesus has given us a _____.

The change that Jesus offers us is so radical, so profound that Scripture likens it to _____–to becoming a _____ person.

“God saved us because of His mercy and not because of any good things that we have done. He washed us by the power of the Holy Spirit. He gave us new birth and a fresh beginning.” (Titus 3:5)

“Anyone who belongs to Christ becomes a new person. The past is forgotten and everything is new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

#5. We can have the blessed assurance that on the cross, Jesus has given us _____.

2 WAYS TO GET INTO HEAVEN

- _____ Way
Salvation by _____
Salvation by _____
Salvation by _____
Salvation by _____
Salvation by _____

- _____ Way

“This is the way to have eternal life–by knowing you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.” (John 17:3)

“And anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Acts 2:21)

“We are now members of God’s own family. And God has reserved for His children the priceless gift of eternal life. It is kept in heaven for you and God will make sure that you get there safely to receive it because you are trusting Him.” (1 Peter 1:3-5)

**Have you received this word for yourself?
Have you sorted out your place in eternity?
Do you know that you know that you’re saved?
Do you have a blessed assurance?**

“My heart is confident in you, O God; my heart is confident. No wonder I can sing your praises!... For your unfailing love is as high as the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens. May your glory shine over all the earth.” (Psalm 57:7-11)