



Last Words

*Week 2: With Me In Paradise | Teacher: Libin Abraham
Sermon Questions for 3.10.2024*

Opener

When was the first time you remember doing something wrong?

Read

Luke 23:32-43; Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:44; Romans 5:12, 18; 1 Corinthians 6:2; Psalm 73:25

Main Points

1. The first thief - not interested in a relationship with Jesus, just interested in a transaction with Jesus.
2. The second thief - accurately views God, admits he is guilty while Jesus is righteous, and asks for mercy.
 - a. His faith in Jesus grows from believing Jesus is innocent to believing that Jesus is King.
3. Jesus' response to the second thief - he doesn't meet our expectations, he exceeds them.
 - a. Time: The thief was thinking about a time in the future, Jesus responded with "today you'll be with me in paradise."
 - b. Space: The thief was hoping to be remembered when Jesus brings his kingdom to earth, but the thief doesn't go from the cross to purgatory to be refined. He he goes to Paradise with Jesus - a place of perfect peace, joy, and communion with God.
 - c. Relationship: The thief merely hopes to be remembered, Jesus' reply is that they will be together, not just a memory for Jesus, but a real relationship.
4. Heaven would be hell without Jesus.

Engage with God in a Group

- What stands out to you in the interactions Jesus has with the other two men who were on crosses next to him?
- Which thief have you most connected with in your life?
- When have you wished for Jesus' abilities more than just him?
- How might Jesus want to demonstrate the same grace, hope, and peace that he gave to the second thief to someone in your life who doesn't know him yet?

Bottom Line

People get to know the real Jesus, not in the times of our victories, but in the times of our suffering.