

**When Love Speaks: Seven Words from the Cross**  
**"THE WORD OF ASSURANCE"**

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**Sunday, March 13, 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 (NLT)

**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**  
**5 Facts a Dying Man Knew**

**1. HE KNEW THAT HE'D FACE GOD AFTER DEATH**

"Don't you fear God even when you are dying?" Luke 23:40 (NIV)

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

**2. HE KNEW HE HAD SINNED**

"We deserve to die for our evil deeds..." Luke 23:41 (NIV)

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

**3. HE KNEW JESUS WAS MORE THAN A MAN**

"...But this man has not done anything wrong!" Luke 23:41 (NIV)

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

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

**4. HE KNEW THAT GRACE COULD ONLY SAVE HIM**

"Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me..." Luke 23:42 (NIV)

"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." Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

**5. HE KNEW THAT JESUS WOULD SAVE HIM IF HE ASKED**

"...when you come into your Kingdom." Luke 23:42 (NIV)

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

**WHAT IS MY ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?**

**THE PROMISE OF GOD'S WORD**

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

- It is **IMMEDIATE** "Today"
- It is **CERTAIN** "you will"
- It is **IMMEDIATE** "be with me"
- It is **ETERNAL** "in paradise"

**WHEN CAN I BE SAVED?**

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

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

# TIME WITH GOD

**Memory Verse: 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.'**  
**And Jesus replied, 'I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise. Luke 23:43**

Brief daily devotions based on this week's topic

## Monday

Read John 13:1-17. What a striking way for Jesus to begin His last meal before his crucifixion – by serving His followers. Think about this – Jesus was fully God and He was on His knees washing twelve men's dirty feet!

What do you think Jesus was teaching His disciples through this act?

Write down three things you learn from Jesus' example.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What makes it difficult for you to serve? How can you apply what you learn from Jesus' example to break through that barrier and serve those God has placed in your life?

*Thank God today for the example He has set for you. Thank Him for His willingness to humble Himself. Pray about the barriers you face when it comes to serving as He did. Pray that God will give you a soft heart and a willingness to serve those God has placed in your life.*

## Tuesday

Read John 14:1-4. In what area of your life do you need to hear Jesus say, "do not let your heart be troubled"?

In what area of your life are you struggling to "trust God"? Think honestly about the hope of eternity with God. How could that hope help you trust God?

How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus is preparing a place for you?

How are you preparing to be with Him?

*Thank God today that you can have the hope of eternity with Him. Thank Him for the opportunity to cast your cares on Him and trust Him. Talk to Him about the areas of your life where you're struggling with fear. Pray that you will grow in your trust of Him and His promises.*

## Wednesday

Read John 14:5-14. Jesus was blowing the disciples' minds with His words. In these verses Jesus tells the disciples that to know Jesus is to know God. Why do you think it was especially important for the disciples to understand who Jesus was?

Reread John 14:6. This is an amazing claim that Jesus is making! Describe your journey to believe the truth of this verse.

What did Jesus say His disciples would do? How can we do "greater things" than Jesus did?

According to this passage what is the goal of the "greater things" that we do? Why is that important to keep in mind?

*Thank God today that part of His plan is to use you to share the Good News of His amazing love. Pray that you will grow in your understanding of who God is. Pray for the people in your life who have not yet come to believe that Jesus is the way, truth and life. Pray that you'll have an opportunity to show them God's love and hope this week.*

## Thursday

Read John 14:15-31. What did Jesus say would show Him our love? How have you seen this in your life?

Reread verse 18. What promise does Jesus make in this verse? How does that encourage you today?

Reread verse 27. This is the second time this week we've read a command and promise like this. In what area of your life are you lacking peace right now? In what way can you use this verse to help you?

*Thank God today for the peace He has available for you. Talk to Him about the areas of your life where you're struggling to rest in His peace. Pray that you will keep our eyes fixed on Him today and that you'll consistently turn your cares over to Him and fall back into His peace.*

## Friday

Read John 15:1-17. These are the verses we'll be studying this coming weekend. Write down three things these verses tell you about your relationship with Jesus.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

When is it most difficult for you to stay close to Jesus? How have you seen the fruit of your life change as you remain close to Him?

What steps can you take to develop a more intimate relationship with Jesus beginning today?

Thank God today that life is not up to you! Thank Him for the strength and growth He gives. Pray about your relationship with Him. Pray that your relationship with Him will grow deeper in the days and weeks ahead.

## Saturday

Please be sure you know this week's Bible verse and have finished all the devotions. Please pray for opportunities to invite people to the Easter services. Pray that God will use this weekend's service to grow you and all those who attend!