

God's Amazing Grace

Luke 23:32-43

Three men died that day. They were crucified side by side outside the walls of Jerusalem at a place called Golgotha. It was located not far from the Damascus Gate so that people going into the city would have to see the executions. Jesus of Nazareth hangs on the middle cross. Two men were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left.

The Amazing Faith of the Dying Thief

Was any man ever in a more desperate situation? Brutally crucified, he is dying in agony for crimes he had committed. He is a guilty man justly punished. He deserves to die and he knows it. By sundown, he will be dead.

This man is as close to death as you can be and still be alive. Now at the last moment he makes one final appeal to the Supreme Court of the Universe: "*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*" (v. 42).

Faith in the Person of Christ

Faith in the Power of Christ

Faith in the Mercy of Christ

Faith in the Kingdom of Christ

The Amazing Grace of the Loving Savior

As I read this story, I take from it four lessons of hope and encouragement.

1. Jesus remained true to His mission.
2. It is never too late to turn to Christ.
3. Even the very worst can be saved.
4. God has made salvation available so that anyone can be saved.

Over two hundred years ago William Cowper wrote a famous hymn called **There is a Fountain** that includes a verse about the dying thief. To my knowledge, this is the only hymn that mentions this man:

"There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins.
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.
The dying thief rejoiced to see, that fountain in his day.
And there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away."

All that God wants from us . . . and all that He will accept . . . is faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. The question is simple. Are you ready to die? You have nothing to fear if you know the Lord. You are not ready to die if you don't. Do you know him? What will you do if you don't know him?