



Sermon Discussion Guide

September 20, 2026

Refresh

Read Luke 2:39-43 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

Discuss

The criminal came to recognize that there is a God before whom we are accountable. What does it mean practically to “fear God,” and how should a proper fear of God affect the way we live?

The criminal admitted, “We are receiving the due reward for our deeds.” Why is honestly acknowledging our sin and guilt such an important part of coming to Christ? What are some ways people today try to minimize or excuse their sin?

The criminal recognized that Jesus “has done nothing wrong” and that He was suffering despite His innocence. What does Jesus’ sinlessness tell us about who He is and what He was accomplishing on the cross?

The criminal had no opportunity to perform good works, get baptized, or make up for his past. What does his request, and Jesus’ response, teach us about salvation by grace through faith? How can we sometimes be tempted to rely on our own merits instead of Christ?

Jesus promised the criminal, “Today you will be with me in paradise.” What about the biblical picture of paradise/Heaven is especially comforting to you, and how should the hope of being with Christ affect the way we face death, grief, and everyday life?