

# **TODAY ... PARADISE!**

## ***The Best Day of Your Life***

### **Luke 23:39-43**

**The very best day of our lives is when we repent  
of our sinful condition and ask Jesus to save us.**

#### **I. THE PENITENT'S CONVERSATION** (39-41)

A. HE REBUKED THE SCORNER (39-40a)

B. HE QUESTIONED THE SCORNER (40b)

1. Directly: Don't you fear God
2. Indirectly: Don't you know you're going to die?

C. HE INFORMED THE SCORNER (41)

- We're guilty and He's not!

#### **II. THE PENITENT'S CONDITION** (40-41)

A. REGRET: A change of heart (40a)

- He's no longer jeering as he formerly had (See Matt. 27:44 and Mark 15:32)

B. FEAR: A change of perspective (40b)

1. Concerned when he considers what God will do with him - See Luke 12:4-5
2. Coming judgement is scary - See Hebrews 9:27 and 10:31

C. GUILT: A change of attitude (41a)

- I'm getting what I deserve ... my sentence is fair

D. RECOGNITION: A change of mind (41b)

1. This Jesus is not like us
2. Jesus is innocent and sinless
3. Here is One who forgives sinners (cf. v. 34)

#### **III. THE PENITENT'S CALL** (42)

A. HE TURNS TO JESUS

1. The best day in your life does not come when you demonstrate regret, fear, guilt and recognition!
2. His best day came when he turned from his sin (40-41) to the Savior (42)

**B. HE PLEADS WITH JESUS**

1. Remember me (aor. pass. impv.)
2. The idea is that of being noticed or acknowledged

**C. HE BELIEVES IN JESUS**

1. He believes Jesus will come
2. He believes Jesus is King
3. He believes Jesus will have a Kingdom (see Luke 21:25-27 and 22:28-30)
4. He believes he can have citizenship (acknowledgment) in that Kingdom
5. He believes the revelation he's been given
  - He's repenting and believing the gospel - Mark 1:14b-15

**IV. THE PENITENT'S COMFORT (43)**

*- Now Jesus speaks ...*

A. ASSUREDLY: Truly

B. PERSONALLY: I say to you

C. PRESENTLY: Today

D. CERTAINTY: You shall be

E. FAVORABLY: With Me

- In My presence ... face to face ... seeing My glory (See John 17:24)

F. WONDERFULLY: In Paradise

1. Not Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:23) or Upper Sheol
2. In Heaven: The quiet garden of God
  - For an understanding of "Paradise" see II Cor. 12:1-4 and Rev. 2:7

**CONCLUSION:**

The best day in this man's life was when he was hope-filled and heaven-bound!

*- And all of this because Jesus saves sinners.*

**Your best day is when you have this same hope of Heaven by turning from your sin to Jesus as your Savior.**

**Have you had your best day?**

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