



THE IMPORTANCE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

ROMANS 10:13 NKJV – (13) For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”.

We do not know much more about the thief on the cross other than he was a criminal, crucified next to Jesus and was brought into paradise at his death. His powerful story is told in **LUKE 23:32-43**, that describes the conversation between Christ and the two criminals crucified alongside of him.

The first criminal mentioned mocked Christ, “***Save yourself and us!***” (**LUKE 23:29**). The other criminal, of whom I am writing, defended Jesus in a humble manner, acknowledging the justice of God and the innocence of Christ. His response to the mocker was, do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong. (**LUKE 23:40-41**)

Then he pleaded with Jesus to “remember me when you come into your kingdom.” This desperate and humble cry for mercy is all that God needed to welcome him into the family of God. Jesus answered, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (**LUKE 23: 43**)

A man who presumably led his entire life ***in opposition*** to God, by the great mercies of God, was able to be saved in his dying moments. This demonstrates that ***a humble heart*** that cries out to God for salvation will be heard!

SCRIPTURE READING

LAMENTATIONS 3:24

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Understanding is the first step to acceptance, and only with acceptance can there be recovery.