

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

June 25, 2012

Three Men, Two Choices

LUKE 23:32-43 NASB – (32) Two others also, who were criminals, were being led away to be put to death with Him. (33) When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. (34) But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. (35) And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One." (36) The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, (37) and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" (38) Now there was also an inscription above Him, "***THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.***" (39) One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" (40) But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? (41) And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." (42) And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" (43) And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, *today* you shall be with Me in Paradise."

Jesus is now on the cross, suffering for our sins. Take time to imagine this image, a criminal on each side of Him. Both men have lived a life of being nothing but criminals and now they both are about to face execution with their Lord. Read verse (39). This criminal displays absolutely no respect to Christ. He is arrogant, disrespectful, prideful, non repenting and ungrateful! This criminal is blind and many people today conduct themselves just like this criminal. Acting as if Christ owes them something!

However, in verse (40), the other criminal speaks up. He admits that they are undeserving of anything! He acknowledges His Lord and repents immediately! Notice the attitudes of both criminals. Which criminal describes you? Will you repent? (Repent – to make a change) or will you just live as if God owes you. (Abuse "GRACE."). What choice will you make? What is the attitude you have about this meditation?

Many are taking the cross, what Jesus did for us very lightly. When the criminal spoke out in verse (40), Jesus knew his heart was sincere. Many are taking this passage very lightly! Self evaluation: What is our attitude towards the cross? Does our life style display we are really repenting? **GALATIANS 6:7-8 NKJV** – (7) ***Do not be deceived:*** God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. (8) Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 CORINTHIANS 15:33

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

His patience, His love, His mercy, His Gifts, His Grace.....Lets not take advantage of it.

