



Words of Comfort

"Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23: 42-43

I. Introduction

No accident that Christ was hung on a cross between two thieves.

That decision was not made by Pilate – Pilate only fulfilled a prophecy from 700 years earlier.

"Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." Isaiah 53:12

II. WHY?

1. It demonstrates HOW FAR He was willing to descend to reach us.
2. Died between IMMORAL PEOPLE – He took my place.
3. Picture of Calvary reflects the TRUTH ABOUT CHOICE.

III. By GRACE – through faith

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

2 Misconceptions:

1. Must make ourselves ACCEPTABLE before we come to God.
2. After we accept Him – His love becomes CONDITIONAL.

The thief's conversion took place:

1. At a time when it **APPEARED** Christ had lost his power
2. Before anything **SUPERNATURAL** had taken place that day
3. When He came to the **END** of Himself

IV. Words of AFFECTION – for his mother

"Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son,"
John 19:25-26

V. There Mary STOOD...

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VI. The PERFECTION of Christ

- A. **OBEDIENCE** *"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."* Exodus 20:12
- B. Blending **ACCOMPLISHMENT** and **AFFECTION**

Not so task driven – forgot **INDIVIDUALS**

Not so **COMPASSIONATE** – forgot the work at hand