

Cries From The Cross

A journey into the heart of Jesus

Devotionals adapted and edited from the book,
Cries from the Cross: A Journey into the Heart of Jesus by Erwin W. Lutzer

EASTER DEVOTIONAL SERIES | THE "EXCITING" SINGING HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH | 2022

Week 2: A Cry of Assurance

*And Jesus said to him,
"Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*

† *Luke 23:43* †

And Jesus said to him...

God had His reasons for decreeing that Jesus should graciously hang between two thieves. At birth He was surrounded by animals and now, at His death, criminals. Calvary grants assurance of eternal life for all who would have a conversation with the Divine and believe. Calvary is the assurance for those who may be in hospital wards dying of any dreaded disease and hope for the strong and healthy who will someday face death without warning.

In humility and anguish, Jesus exerts enough energy to do in death what He had done in life: He makes a promise. The conversation was not long; it was not theological nor was not complicated. The simple yet profound statement of assurance is the same one available to you and me. The good news of Calvary is: Jesus is willing to speak to you, too.

Questions to Explore This Week:

- † Can you remember the time in your life when you had a conversation of assurance with Jesus Christ
- † Have you asked Him to become a part of your life?

"... today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Series Overview

Week 1	A Cry of Pardon Luke 23:34
Week 2	A Cry of Assurance Luke 23:43
Week 3	A Cry of Compassion John 19:26-27
Week 4	A Cry of Anguish Mark 15:34

Passion Week

Monday	A Cry of Suffering John 19:28
Wednesday	A Cry of Victor John 19:30
Good Friday	A Cry of Submission Luke 23:46

Notice Jesus' willingness to grant the man's prayer request: Jesus exceeded the repentant thief's expectation. Jesus spoke a word of immediate inclusion when He promised, "today..." an immediate, personal fellowship that would last throughout eternity. The same thief who hung with Him in condemnation would be reunited with Him in salvation.

Remember both thieves prayed, but only one was saved. The thief that died a lost man only cared about himself and a few more days or years to live on this planet. The saved thief recognized, as we all must do; this world is not our home. Both thieves shared the same opportunity to hear Jesus, the Son... pray to God, the Father, "Father forgive them..." Both shared the same opportunity to trust in God; but today, both are eternally separated. These two thieves represent the entire human race. With all we have in common, there remains a distinct difference between life and death. The Cross of Christ is that difference. On one side, are those who believe, and on the other side are those who choose to justify themselves. The only thing separating Heaven from Gahanna is the Cross of Christ. It's that simple; yet there will be so many who will miss the simplicity of the message... for the complexity of what's at stake. Not just any cross; but the rugged, old, blood- stained, emblem of suffering and shame.

Today and everyday many will make a decision to trust... or not to trust. Use your influence to point others to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Tell the world, paradise is available. To all who would accept the invitation to spend eternity with the One who has never dropped a promise.