

Praying at the foot of the cross



Luke 23:35-43

The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'. Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews'.

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'



Reflection

The place is Calvary. Imagine the scene.

The ground beneath your feet is full of dust and tiny stones.

And what of the atmosphere, is it quiet ... expectant ... hushed ... heavy ... oppressive?

Look at the people who are there at the foot of the cross - do you know them?

Is Mary the Mother of Jesus there? Is the beloved disciple? Who else is there?

Listen, hear the leaders jeering. Listen, hear the soldiers mocking.

Look. Listen. And now see.

See the inscription. Move nearer to the cross. Raise your eyes and read,

'This is the King of the Jews.'

Now lower your eyes from the inscription to the face below it and look into the eyes of Christ...

What do you see when you look into his eyes? What are his feelings for you? What do you see as you hold the gaze of God?...

What does God on a cross see as you return his gaze?

What does he see when he looks into your eyes?

What are your feelings for him?...

We might say with the good thief, "Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom."

What one thing would you like Jesus to remember about you?

"Indeed, I promise you...." Jesus replied.



Questions to ponder

- What one thing does Jesus promise you today?



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