

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

"Today you will be with me in Paradise" March 8, 2020



Opening Question

1. Have you ever been asked about heaven? How would you describe it to someone who's never heard about it?
2. Are you afraid of death? Why or why not?

Going Deeper

Read Luke 23:32-43

1. What words or phrases catch your attention in this passage?
2. The word "save" shows up a lot in this passage. What do you think they meant when they challenged Jesus to save himself?
3. What does this passage teach us about the two criminals beside Jesus? How are they similar? How are they different?
4. What do you make of the second criminal's request in verse 42?
 - a. What exactly is he asking of Jesus?
 - b. What does this say about his view of Jesus?

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5. Read verse 43 again? What are the key words in Jesus' reply?
 - a. How is this good news to this criminal?
 - b. How is this good news to you?
 - c. How do you picture this paradise?
 - i. Can you think of other places in the Bible that mentions paradise?
 - ii. How does this paradise relate to what is promised in Revelation 21:1-5?
 - iii. What is the difference between what happens when we die and what will take place when Christ returns?

6. How does this passage speak into your life? Are there ways it comforts you and/or challenges your own fears?

Close in Prayer

BLESS Rhythms Summary:

BLESS: This is the practice of blessing another person. It can be big or small (buying coffee, encouraging text/email, etc.). *Who have you blessed this week?*

LISTEN: This is the practice of listening, both to God and to others. *How did you set time aside this week to be a listener?*

EAT: This is the practice of sharing food with people. This can happen in a home or in a coffee shop. *Who are you eating with/ inviting into your home?*

SPEAK: This is the practice of speaking our faith. It can happen through encouragement, story sharing, and evangelism. *How have you spoken your faith this week?*

SABBATH: This is the practice of resting from work and taking time to rest and enjoy creation. *How are you practicing Sabbath this week?*