

## Lessons From People Who Followed Jesus

**This week** – continuing our series of lessons which teach us how to savingly follow Jesus Christ.

*The other (thief) answering rebuked him, saying, “Dost not thou fear God? ..... We receive the due reward of our deeds: But this Man has done nothing amiss.”*  
 Luke 23v40-41.

### Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Luke 23v1-12 (Christ falsely accused before Pilate & Herod)	
Monday	Luke 23v13-20 (No fault can be found in Christ)	
Tuesday	Luke 23v21-31 (The crowd shout, ‘Crucify Him’)	
Wednesday	Luke 23v32-38 (Barabbas released, Christ crucified)	
Thursday	Luke 23v39-56 (The dying thief sees Christ as Saviour)	
Friday	Isaiah 53v1-12 (The Suffering Saviour Promised)	
Saturday	Luke 24v1-12 (‘He is Risen, as He said He would’)	

### Important Question for us Today: Do we have the wrong attitude of mind?

**Some** think that they are too bad, too sinful, and so cannot be forgiven and saved. **Not true.**

**Others** think that they are good enough for God so do not need to repent and look for a Saviour, **or**, at least, are not that bad that God would require them to repent and seek His forgiveness. **Not true.**

**Some** may even think we can leave it until our dying moment – but this is a great risk, as death usually comes very suddenly. God’s standard is absolute perfection, perfect holiness, as He clearly tells us in **Romans 3v23, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”**

Our lesson this week introduces us to two men - both sinners. One rejects the Saviour and pours scorn on Him, and so retains the guilt of his sin, thus losing his final opportunity of forgiveness. The other sincerely recognises Who Christ is and fully acknowledges that he is a sinner in desperate need of God’s forgiveness. He sees a Saviour, dying for him, and in faith repents, finds forgiveness, and is rewarded with the loving Saviour’s immediate acceptance. **“Today, you will be with Me in Paradise”**

### Hymn 248 - reminds us of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary to save sinners.

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| 1. There is a fountain filled with blood<br>Drawn from Emmanuel’s veins;<br>And sinners, plunged beneath that flood<br>Lose all their guilty stains. | 3. Dear dying Lamb! Thy precious blood<br>Shall never lose its power,<br>Till all the ransomed Church of God,<br>Be saved, to sin no more. |
| 2. The dying thief rejoiced to see<br>That fountain in his day;<br>And there may I, as vile as he,<br>Wash all my sins away.                         | 4. E’er since, by faith, I saw the stream<br>Thy flowing wounds supply,<br>Redeeming love has been my theme,<br>And shall be till I die.   |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

## The Lord Meets The Needs Of A Dying Thief.

- **The Scene at Calvary – 3 Men Condemned to die on a Cross.**
    - **Two thieves**, tried for their crime and sentenced to death by crucifixion.
    - **Jesus Christ, The Eternal Son of God, God and Man**, perfect, without sin. Voluntarily taking the guilt of sinners - offering Himself, a ransom for many.
    - Suffering not only crucifixion’s physical pain, but the invisible punishment of God for the sins of His People. Eternal punishment, condensed into 6 hours.
- Stop. Dwell on this amazing act of love and ask. “Did Christ die for me?”**

### ● What Changed One Of The Thieves?

- **He at first ‘Saw’ a Sermon, and then He ‘Heard’ a Sermon!**
  - He had never seen a Man like Jesus Christ - His unique holiness, majesty, kindness.
  - Unbelievers shouted, ‘He said, **“I AM the Son of God”**’ Matthew 27v54, and, **“He saved others; let Him save Himself; if He be Christ, the chosen of God”**’ Luke 23v35.
- **He Began to ask Himself Serious Questions.**
  - Is this Man The Messiah? The Saviour? Suffering, but voicing no objection. Written about by Isaiah, the OT Prophet, **‘brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.’** Read Isaiah 53
- **He Looked at The Saviour Again. He Knew That: -**
  - He deserved his punishment, but that Christ, as perfect God, had done no wrong.
  - Christ had the power to save Himself but was dying to save sinners - like him.
  - The other man was wrong in ranting, **‘if thou be Christ, save thyself and us.’**

**Stop. Ask yourself, “What is my attitude to the Saviour dying on the cross?”**

- **He Believed, Repented and Prayed.**
  - **Believing** that Christ was God The Son, he answered, **‘Dost not thou fear God?’**
  - **Repenting** of his sin, he **Prays**, **‘Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom.’**
- **He Was Immediately Saved - Just as he was about to die.**
  - And Jesus said, **‘Verily I say unto thee, Today, shalt thou be with Me in paradise.’**

### ● How Can We Be Changed? Have You Ever Been Changed?

- We too must earnestly look to the Lord Jesus Christ with unprejudiced eyes to see His holiness, majesty, and His great love in dying on the cross for sinners like us.
- We must believe the Bible record that He died willingly for all who would trust Him.
- We must pray humbly, even trembling, as we repent and ask the Lord to forgive us.
- We, like the dying thief, must stand for The Lord whatever others may say or think.
- Come to the Saviour today. He is willing to give you faith, and a repentant heart to save your soul - guiding you in this life and through death to eternal life in Heaven.

**Stop. Do not leave it as late as the dying thief. Come to the Saviour now.**

The Prophet Isaiah wrote, **“But He (Christ the Saviour) was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”** Isaiah 53v5.