

***“Room At The Cross”***  
***Luke 23:33-43***

**Introduction:**

1. For The Remainder Of Our Service Tonight:
    - I Would Like For Us To Return To:
      - The Gospel Of Luke In Our Bibles:
        - Luke 23 - Where We Find That:
          - Even Though Jesus Was Hanging & Dying On The Cross:
            - Which Was The Most Torturous And Excruciating Ways To Be Executed In Ancient Rome!
    - He Still Remembered:
      - The Great Mission Of His Coming!
        - As He Himself Said:
          - Back In Luke 19:10 - It Was:
            - “To Seek And To Save That Which Was Lost!”
- 
2. Well - Two Of Those:
    - Who Were “Lost” - And:
      - Desperately So:
        - Were Those Two Criminals:
          - Who Were Crucified Along With Jesus!
    - Let’s Read The Entire Account:
      - From Luke 23:33-43:
        - “And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. / 34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. / 35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided [him], saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. / 36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, / 37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. / 38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. / 39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. / 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? / 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. / 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. / 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise!”
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3. What We Find In These Verses:
    - Is That Both Of Those “Malefactors” - As They Are Described Here:
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1. ***Both – Were Lost!***
    - And They Were Lost:
      - Because They Had Next To Nothing:
        - On Their Side!
      - We Don’t Know Much:
        - About These Two Men:
          - Except What We Are Told From The Other Gospel Accounts:
            - That They Were “Thieves” And “Robbers!”
      - They Were Likely:
        - Violent Criminals:
          - Who Took From Others:
            - By Force - Instead Of:
              - In Secret!
        - And - They Didn’t Care:
          - Who They Hurt:
            - In The Commission Of Their Crimes!
      - Perhaps Jesus Even Had These Men In Mind:
        - When He Described Back In Luke 10:30:
          - How “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among *thieves*, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half

- dead!"
- Perhaps These Two Thieves:
    - Had Left Others:
      - **More** Than "Half Dead":
        - In Their Criminal Enterprise!
    - But Those Days:
      - Had Come And Gone!
      - And Now - Hanging There On Their Own Crosses:
  - They Had No More Hope!
    - They Were Put On Those Crosses:
      - So That They Might Die!
        - That Was The Punishment They Deserved:
          - For Their Crimes!
    - It May Be That:
      - Barabbas Was The Ringleader:
        - Of This Band Of Thieves:
          - And - As It Turned Out:
            - There Was Some Hope Still Available For Him!
    - Because Pontius Pilate Asked The Blood-Thirsty Crowd:
      - "Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?" (Matthew 27:17)
        - But - To His Surprise:
          - The Crowd Chose Barabbas:
            - And His Life Was Spared!
      - But That Would Not Be The Case:
        - For These Two Men!
          - As Far The World Was Concerned:
            - They Had "No Hope" And Were "Without God In The World!" (Ephesians 2:12)
              - But Also:
      - They Had No More Honor!
        - Like Jesus - They Would Have Been Stripped:
          - Of All Their Clothes:
            - So That They Might Be:
              - A Shameful Spectacle:
                - To All Who Would See Them!
        - But - Unlike Jesus:
          - We Are Not Even Told:
            - Who They Were!
          - It Was Common For The Romans To Publish The Crimes:
            - For Which They Were Accused And Condemned:
              - And Place It Above Their Heads On The Cross!
        - But - Only Jesus - We Are Told:
          - Had His Name & Claim:
            - Placed Above His:
              - "This Is Jesus, The King Of The Jews!"
            - But - It Is Likely That:
              - Their Names Were Left Off - So That They Would Leave This World:
                - As Nobodies!
        - They Had No More Hope - And:
          - They Had No More Honor!
            - But Also:
        - They Had No More Hours!
          - Even Though When Someone Was Crucified:
            - They Could Languish On The Cross:
              - For Days - They Didn't Even Have **That** Much Time:
                - To Think About Their Crimes & Sins Against God!
          - But Even Before That Hour - God Gave Them:

- What He Has Given To Us All!
  - Time And “Space To Repent!”
  - To Turn From Our Sin:
    - And To Turn To:
      - The Savior!
- But - What Have We Done:
  - With Our Time?
    - Well - What Did They Do:
      - With The Hours They Had Been Given?
  - They Wasted Them & Squandered Them:
    - By Turning To & Living According To:
      - Their “Own” Sinful “Way!”
- But Now - They Had No More Time!
  - No More Hours!
    - They Would Soon Die:
      - And - “After [That] The Judgment!”
      - But Even Further:
- They Had No More Help!
  - We Don’t Know:
    - The History Of These Men:
      - And Why They Might Have Chosen:
        - To Live Their Lives:
          - Without Any Care For Others!
    - But - Perhaps - Like In Our Own Lives:
      - There Were People:
        - Who Genuinely Cared For Them:
          - And Wanted God’s Best For Them!
      - Whether It Was:
        - Their Parents - Or:
          - Their Neighbors - Or:
            - Even A Godly Rabbi!
    - They Might Have Even:
      - Reached Out To These Men:
        - In Order To Help Them:
          - And Get Them To Think About:
            - Their Crimes & Sins:
              - Against God!
    - But - Instead Of Listening To Them:
      - They Ignored Them - And:
        - Rejected Their Help!
          - And Now - It Was Too Late!
    - They Had No More Help!
      - They Were All Alone - And:
        - All But Abandoned:
          - On Their Crosses Of Shame!
        - And Even More:
  - They Had No More Home!
    - The Apostle Paul Once Told Timothy:
      - 1 Timothy 6:7 - “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out!”
        - And This Is Seen Even More Clearly:
          - In The Deaths Of Those Two, Lost Thieves!
    - The Only Possession:
      - They Could Claim As Theirs:
        - Was Their Cross!
          - It Belonged To Them:
            - Because They Earned It & Deserved It:
              - By Their Crimes!

- But Even That:
  - Would Soon Be Taken From Them!
  - And - Their Corpses Would Be:
    - Cast Into An Unmarked Grave!
- Those Two Thieves:
  - Were Utterly Lost!
    - Lost To This World - And Seemingly:
      - Lost To God Himself!
  - And - Sadly:
    - This Could Be The Life-Story:
      - Of So Many - Even Today!
    - And Truly:
      - This Could Be The Life-Story:
        - Of Any!
- But - Though Both Thieves:
  - Met Jesus - On That Hill Called Calvary - Only:

## 2. ***One – Was Found!***

- Because - God Opened The Eyes & Ears & Heart:
  - Of One Of Those Thieves:
    - To Change Him From Being:
      - A Blasphemer Of Christ:
        - To Being:
          - A Believer In Christ!
  - You See - As The Crowd:
    - Was Mocking & Blaspheming Jesus:
      - So Were Those Thieves!
    - In Matthew 27:44 - We Are Told That:
      - “The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth!”
  - But - God - Out Of Nothing But Grace - Touched:
    - The Hard Heart:
      - Of One Of Those Thieves!
        - Which One? The One On His Left Or The One On His Right?
          - We Still Do Not Know!
  - But - It Was That One:
    - Who In The Final Moments Of His Life:
      - Finally Realized:
        - How Lost He Was:
      - And Finally Recognized:
        - Who Jesus Was!
  - As We Find In 23:40-41:
    - He Repented & Was Sorry:
      - For His Sin! He Said To The Other Thief:
        - “Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? / And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss!”
  - But Then - He Believed & Trusted In:
    - Jesus As His Savior!
  - So - In 23:42:
    - “And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom!”
      - And - That Moment:
        - He Found In Jesus:
          - More Than He Lost!
        - And - He Received From Jesus:
          - More Than He Asked!
    - Because He Then Heard:
      - Jesus Speaking To Him - Yes To Him!
        - The One Who Seemed To Have No More:

- Hope, Honor, Hours, Help, Or Home – In This World!
- Yet - In 23:44 - We Read:
  - “And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise!”
- From No More Hope:
  - That Thief Was Given - The Greatest Hope!
    - Because Jesus Made Him:
      - A Special Promise!
        - “Verily” - Jesus Said!
        - “Amen!”
  - And - Because Of:
    - Who Jesus Was & Is:
      - Even Death:
        - Cannot Get In The Way:
          - Of Him Keeping His Promise!
    - Because - As The Lord / As God:
      - “What He Had Promised, He Was Able Also To Perform!” (Romans 4:21)
  - By Faith In Jesus - That Thief Was Given:
    - More Than Hope!
      - He Was Given An Eternal Promise:
        - From The Lord Himself! Also:
- From No More Honor:
  - That Thief Was Given - The Greatest Honor!
    - Because Jesus Spoke:
      - Directly & Personally To Him!
        - “I Say Unto Thee” - Jesus Said!
  - So - Even Though:
    - *We* Do Not Know:
      - The Identity Of That Man:
        - Does It Really Matter?
  - Know - Because:
    - “The Foundation Of God Standeth Sure, Having This Seal, The Lord Knoweth Them That Are His!” (2 Timothy 2:19)
  - And Even If:
    - That Thief’s Name Was Not Placed:
      - Above His Head On The Cross:
        - He Could Now Rejoice:
          - Because His Name Was, From That Time On, Written In Heaven! (Luke 10:20)
  - By Faith In Jesus - That Thief Was Given:
    - More Than Honor!
      - He Was Given An Eternal Identity:
        - In Jesus Christ! Also:
- From No More Hours:
  - That Thief Was Given - The Greatest Hour!
    - “Today” - Jesus Said To Him!
  - It Became The Day - The Hour - The Moment:
    - When He Was Turned:
      - From “Darkness To Light, And From The Power Of Satan Unto God, That [He] Might Receive Forgiveness Of Sins, And Inheritance Among Them Which Are Sanctified By Faith That Is In [Jesus Christ]!” (Acts 20:18)
  - Because - When That Moment Came:
    - By God’s Grace - He Stopped Hardening His Heart:
      - And Realized That:
        - “Now Is The Accepted Time; Behold Now Is The Day Of Salvation!” (2 Corinthians 6:2)
  - And In & Through That Hour:
    - He Was Able To:
      - “Lay Hold On Eternal Life!” (1 Timothy 6:12)

- By Faith In Jesus - That Thief Was Given:
  - More Than Another Hour!
    - He Was Given Eternal Life:
      - With The Lord! And Even:
- From No More Help:
  - That Thief Was Given - The Greatest Help!
    - The Help Of Jesus Christ!
      - Jesus Said To Him - 22:43 - "Shalt Thou Be With Me!"
    - I Wonder When:
      - The Last Time *Anyone* Wanted:
        - That Thief To Be With Them?
  - Perhaps He *Might* Have Been Invited:
    - To Someone's Home:
      - If He Had Just "Cleaned Himself Up!"
        - Clean Up His Ragged Clothes!
        - Clean Up His Wicked Life!
  - But - What Did Jesus Do?
    - He Went To The Place:
      - Where Criminals Go To Die!
    - But - This Shouldn't Have Been A Surprise!
      - In Isaiah 53:12 - His People Were Told:
        - "He Was Numbered With The Transgressors!"
  - And So - By Faith In Jesus - That Thief Was Given:
    - More Than Enough Help!
      - He Was Given Eternal Salvation:
        - From The Lord - From The Most Helpless Place Of All! Also:
  - From No More Home:
    - That Thief Was Given - The Greatest Home!
      - The Home Of Jesus Himself!
        - "In Paradise" - Jesus Said!
          - The "Paradise Of God" - Which Is Heaven Itself!

**Conclusion:**

1. And So It *Can* Be & *Will* Be:
  - For *Anyone* - If You:
    - Like That Thief:
      - "Shalt Confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved!"
2. You See:
  - Only In The Lord Jesus Christ:
    - Will You Find:
      - The Greatest Hope!
      - The Greatest Honor!
      - The Greatest Hour!
      - The Greatest Help!
      - And - The Greatest Home!
  - Because:
    - There Is Still:
      - "Room At The Cross For You!"

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