

THE LIFE OF
JESUS

Message 37
Criminals
Perry Duggar
October 15, 2017

2. Realized Jesus' _____.
(Luke 23:41b-42. C/R: Matthew 16:15-17; Luke 23:34;
Romans 10:13)

► **Outline**

Today's Message based on *The Life of Jesus* – Reading 202
(Matthew 27:38,44; Mark 15:27-28; Luke 23:39-43)

And He said to him, "I assure you: Today you will be with Me in paradise."
Luke 23:43 (HCSB)

A. Introduction
(Matthew 27:38,44; Mark 15:28; Luke 23:39)

B. The converted criminal...
(Luke 23:40-43. C/R: James 2:14)

1. Recognized his _____.
(Luke 23:40-41a. C/R: Deuteronomy 21:22-23; Luke 12:4-5;
Galatians 3:10,13; 1 John 1:8-9)

3. Received _____ life.
(Luke 23:43. C/R Daniel 12:2; Romans 5:1-2;
Ephesians 2:8-9; Revelation 2:7)

Answers: 1. wrongs 2. identity 3. eternal

Resource Information: Unless otherwise noted, outline and onscreen verses are from HCSB version (Holman Christian Standard Bible) of *The Holy Bible*. Our resource book for this series is *The Life of Jesus, A Simplified Harmony of the Gospels*, which is available in the Bookstore. C/R, if noted, refers to a 'cross reference' of Scripture verse(s). Today's outline and discussion guide are available to mobile device users through the Brookwood Church app available through your favorite app store.

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide to deepen your walk with God. Try not to rush through these questions, but take time to learn and grow. Ask God to speak to you in His Word. Find a Small Group at brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups.

Conversation Starter

Describe a time you deserved punishment, but instead were offered mercy (a real-life situation when you did something wrong but were let off the hook).

Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read *The Life of Jesus*, Reading #202 (this is a harmony of [Matthew 27:38, 44](#); [Mark 15:27-28](#); [Luke 23:39-43](#)).

1. Describe the attitude of the first criminal. What was in his heart? What causes someone to be like this?
2. Now consider the second criminal. How would you describe him?
3. What did the second criminal believe about himself and about Jesus?
4. What did the first criminal want to be saved from?
5. What did the second criminal want to be saved from?
6. Sometimes we want God to fix our circumstances more than we want to know God. Can you think of a time when this has been true of you?
7. What do we learn about Jesus by the way He responded to each of the criminals?

8. Define these terms: mercy, grace, and repentance. What's the particular significance of each of these for a follower of Christ?
9. What would we be missing if this account of the two criminals had not been included in the Bible?
10. What's the most significant part of this week's teaching for you? How does God want you to respond?

Soul Training

Read [Romans 5:6-11](#). Talk with God about a time you were far away from Him. Thank God for remembering you and caring about you. Spend time thanking God that out of His great love, He sent Jesus to die for you. Use this time to practice uniting your heart with God's overwhelming love.

Memory Verse

But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

[1 John 1:9 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading

Day	<i>The Life of Jesus</i> Reading #	or Bible Reference
Oct. 16	202	Matthew 27:38, 44 ; Mark 15:27-28 ; Luke 23:39-43
Oct. 17	203	Matthew 27:45-54 ; Mark 15:33-39 ; Luke 23:44-48 ; John 19:28-30
Oct. 18	204	John 19:31-37
Oct. 19	205	Matthew 27:57-60 ; Mark 15:42-46 ; Luke 23:50-54 ; John 19:38-42
Oct. 20	206	Matthew 27:61-66 ; Mark 15:47 ; Luke 23:55-56

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, October 22, we'll take a closer look at what happened right after Jesus' resurrection. Read ahead in *The Life of Jesus*, Reading #207-209 (this is a harmony of [Matthew 28:1-8](#); [Mark 16:1-8](#); [Luke 24:1-8](#); [John 20:1-2](#)).