**FAMOUS LAST WORDS SERIES**

**“Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise”**

**Pastor Kevin Snyder**

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**Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”**

Luke 23:36-43

36The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. 37They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” 38A sign was fastened above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.”39One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”40But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? 41We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” 42Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

43And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

**The Context**

**The Miss**

“The women were mourning the fact that Jesus was going to die, but Jesus makes it clear that the real tragedy is miss judging who he is” –Darell L. Block

**The Words**

 **The crowd**: mocking, sneering, and taunting

 vs. 35 “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One”

 **The Thief**: so utterly different, faith filled, and humble

 vs. 41 & 42 “Don’t you fear God? ... this man did nothing wrong… Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

 **Jesus:** compassionate, gracious, and hopeful

 vs. 43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

**The Grace**

 The thief went from “guilty” to “gifted” in a moment, which was solely dependent on the grace of Jesus.

**The Cross**

“At the center of God’s plan, stands Jesus, and at the center of Jesus’ work stand the cross and the resurrection.” D. L. Block

**The Application**

* To embrace the cross is to renounce our own works as the basis of salvation.

Is it time for you to accept this grace that Jesus has for you? Might have you “missed” judged who God and Jesus is in your life?

* My relationship with God is a response of gratitude for all he has done to bring us to himself.

How is my living, reflecting the grace that I have received from God?

* Jesus is the example of someone offering everything to show his love for his neighbor, even when his neighbor is unjust to him.

What am I offering those around me, even in the midst of being misunderstood or even mocked?