

**Lent Wednesday #6 Devotional Message 3/20/2002—LOL, Westfield**

**Title:** “Jesus, remember me!”

**Text:** **Luke 23:42-43** <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today with me you will be in paradise." [NIV]

**Intro:** *Ills.: Remember me? Remember me! Remember me:( Remember me:0 Remember me.*

**Theme:** If we ever fear Jesus doesn't or won't remember us, like the thief all we have to do is look to Jesus on the cross.

***Why does fear of being forgotten by Jesus rule our hearts (PRINT AND READ VERSE 42)***

- Because we forget to let Jesus rule our hearts
  1. The other thief saw Jesus and ridiculed him because the thief still didn't get it—he was there for his sins
  2. *“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” 1 John 4:18*
  3. Only Jesus, completely trusting in Jesus, can perfect me in love—His love—and take away my deepest fears
- Because we forget that saving faith is a day by day thing—“today”
  1. Faith is not something we can store up, reserve a portion of, or claim as a trophy from the past
  2. “today” means **TODAY**—don't put off 'til tomorrow what you should do today in your relationship with Jesus
  3. *“So God set another day. That day is today. Many years after your ancestors failed to enter that place of rest God spoke about it through David in the passage already quoted: “If you hear God speak today, don't be stubborn.” If Joshua had given the people rest, God would not have spoken about another day. Therefore, a time of rest and worship exists for God's people. Those who entered his place of rest also rested from their work as God did from his. So we must make every effort to enter that place of rest. Then no one will be lost by following the example of those who refused to obey.” Hebrews 4:7-11*
  4. **TODAY**—tonight is the time to repent, turn over, change your heart, trust in Jesus, BELIEVE
- Because we are to busy trying to “save ourselves” to let Jesus do it
  1. The unbelieving thief didn't get it, Jesus did not need to save himself, and that is why Jesus could save him
  2. Subtle self-righteousness/self trust must always be rooted out of my heart so that I can pray without hypocrisy, *“Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.”*

***Why we can confidently know and say, “Jesus, remember me.” (PRINT AND READ VERSE 43)***

- Because Jesus says, “today”
  1. The original sentence Jesus spoke was *“today, with me you will be in paradise”*
  2. Despite all the bad things this thief had done, Jesus could assure him because of his faith in Him, *“today”*
  3. There is no place of “limbo” or a penalty box in which we must stay until we work it off
- Because heaven is where Jesus will also be
  1. The focus is not on getting heaven, seeing loved ones who passed on, or even St. Peter—it is about being with Jesus
  2. *“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Heb. 12: 2*
  3. **ILLS.: Old Hymn, “My God, I Love Thee**
- Because the promise of eternal life is not a time-limited-offer
  1. This is not a ‘here today, gone tomorrow’—for the thief no questions asked, no tiny words of disclaimer
  2. The promise of salvation by grace through faith is sure: Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Heb.13: 8)
- Because their will be no disappointments in heaven
  1. **ILLS.: WHEN DADDY DIDN'T SHOW UP**
  2. Paradise----nothing to sneeze at—an obvious step up for that thief but better than he had ever experienced on earth
  3. *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Rev. 21:4*