**‘Cross-Words: The Last Words of Jesus’**

**Easter Series 2018
Message #2 – ‘Words of Salvation’**

March 25th, 2018

Text: Luke 23:39-43

Pastor Keith Doyle

1. **Introduction:**
* We saw His Words of forgiveness, **‘Father forgive them for they know not what they do’**
* **Illus.** Famous Last Words…
1. **Context:**
* **Pilate’s order…God’s plan**
* **Between two courts**…Defiant Insurrectionists…Romans (Pilate) and Jews (Herod)…

*It shows us He submitted Himself to the folly of man’s kingdom*

* **Between two worlds**…heaven and earth…Jesus, suspended as out Mediator between heaven and earth. *It shows us the position He occupied as our substitute*
* **Jesus Death:** Natural, Unnatural, Preter-natural, Supernatural
* **Between two thieves**…sinless among sinners…

*It shows us the unfathomable shame to which He descended*

* **This conversion takes place before the supernatural events…**
	+ - Before the earthquake…before ‘It is finished’…
* **Words of Salvation: ‘Today you will be with me in paradise’**

**Q: How was such a remarkable change possible?**

1. **We See Four Things:**
	* + **The ‘Token’ Sinner (39-41)**
* A ‘representative’ sinner – unites with the enemies of Christ

Matt. 27:44, ***‘…the thieves also cast the same in his teeth’*** (plural)

* Chief Priests, Scribes, Elders…joined by Thieves
* The ‘Thieves’ show us our human capacity (Matt. 27:42-44; esp. 44)
* By challenging His ability to save (42)
* By deriding His trust in the Lord (43)
* By questioning whether God was interested in Him (43)
* **The ‘Trouble’ of Man**
* What could he do? (He is strapped to a cross…the end of himself) –
* Lk. 19:10, ***‘For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost’***
* **The ‘Truth’ of God *‘…you will be with me…’***
* How can we be ‘with’ him in our sin
* Elements of conversion: Repentance and Faith

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* Elements of conversion: Repentance and Faith
* Repentance from sin, ***‘Do you not fear God?’*** (40, Holy Spirit’s work)
* Faith towards Christ, ***‘Jesus, remember me…’*** (42)
* 7 things I see that he did…
* He broke ranks with his colleague and rebuked him. Luke 23L40
* He acknowledged guilt and the appropriateness of judgement
* He testified to the uniqueness of Christ: “this man has done nothing wrong”
* He believed Christ was a King who would enter His kingdom
* He was convinced that Christ would triumph over death eternally
* He publicly confessed his commitment to the King
* He asked for merciful treatment and hope for the future
* **The ‘Terminal’ of the Saved, ‘…with me…in paradise…’**
* **Example #1** – Stephen’s story (Acts 7:59)
* **Exampled #2** Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19-31)
* c/f II Cor. 5:8 ***‘Absent from the body…present with the Lord’***
* ***‘With me…’,*** Christ, our goal and our hope.
* **Application: (4 truths we can know – greatest words?)**
* We have the assurance that life continues after death
* We have the assurance that Christ rules death and eternity
* We have the assurance the Christ grants eternal life to the repentant
* We have the assurance that eternity will be spent in His presence

**Words of Salvation: *“Today, you will be with me in paradise”***

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