

NOVEMBER 19

“YOU CALL ON JESUS, AND HE SAYS, ‘TODAY.’ ”

READ

Luke 23:34-43

Here is the perfect picture of salvation: the Son of God, hanging on a cross between heaven and earth, arms outstretched, bleeding, hurting, and on either side of Him, thieves. You have one thief continuing to revile and blaspheme, while the other asks Jesus to help him and remember him. This can only be explained as the grace of God. One thief looked at a man beaten beyond recognition, a crown of thorns pressing into His brow, and the Holy Spirit opened his eyes. He suddenly saw the Savior of the world. The thief said, “If You could just remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” He had not seen the miraculous signs that would follow Jesus’ death: an earthquake, total darkness, the veil rent in two. By grace, he saw Jesus. He feared God, and called His Son, “Lord.” He didn’t ask for a material thing; he asked to be remembered. Jesus looked back at him and said, “Today you will be with Me in paradise.” That’s how quickly salvation works. You don’t have to apply and wait for a response. You call on Jesus, and He says, “Today.”

PRAY

Lord, what a beautiful picture this is. As You were hanging on the cross in torment, You were praying for the ones who crucified You. Praise You for Your grace. As I pray today for those who are dying without You, I realize that there is hope!

From November 10, 2013