



Lessons for Life

Which Side Are You On?

Close Encounters With Jesus – 1

April 20, 2014

Pastor Michael Rochelle

“Two others also, who were criminals, were being led away to be put to death with Him. When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, ‘He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.’ The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, and saying, ‘If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!’ Now there was also an inscription above Him, ‘THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.’ One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, ‘Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!’ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, ‘Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.’ And he was saying, ‘Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!’ And He said to him, ‘Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.’” Luke 23:32-43 (NIV)

1. THE PASSAGE

“Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified Him, along with the criminals —one on His right, the other on His left.” VS. 32-33 (NIV)

2. THE PRINCIPLE

“I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord ...”
Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

“He breathed His last.” Luke 23:46b (NIV)

3. THE PORTRAITS

“One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us! But the other criminal rebuked him. Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong”
Vs. 39-41 (NIV)

4. THE PROMISE

“Jesus answered him: I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise.” Vs. 43 (KJV)

5. THE PARALLEL

The question today is:

What side of the cross are you on? When you look at Jesus who do you see?

Are you blinded by cynicism, hardened by self-absorption?

Are you unbelieving because things haven't gone your way?

OR...

When you look at Jesus...

Do you recognize the One who is hanging there?

Can you reach out to Him now and accept what He died to give you?
