

## Jesus' Seven Last Words from the Cross: Heaven

Genesis 2:8 ❖ Luke 23:32-43

*"It was the repentant thief who first found the heart of the Gospel. In the dying Man beside him - mocked, forsaken, crowned with thorns - the thief saw a King and he longed for a place in His Kingdom."  
("Great Interviews with Jesus," Clarence Macartney, 177-178)*

### Deathbed Confessions

Have you known someone who professed faith in Jesus shortly before they died?

"The vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives." ("To God Be the Glory," Fanny Crosby)

An implication and a ramification of a "deathbed confession":

1) "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

2) "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

### Dying Words

Jesus spoke seven times during the six hours He hung dying on the cross. What are traditionally called the "seven last words" of Jesus are actually seven last statements.

For men being crucified, breathing, much less speaking, was extremely painful and required much effort.

What was on Jesus' heart and mind as He died?

- 1) Forgiveness (Luke 23:34)
- 2) Heaven (Luke 23:43)
- 3) Honor (John 19:26-27)
- 4) Abandonment (Mark 15:34)
- 5) Suffering (John 19:28)
- 6) Completion (John 19:30)
- 7) Peace (Luke 23:46)

### A Prayer Request

The first words Jesus spoke while He hung dying on the cross were: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

One of the two robbers being crucified on either side of Jesus "hurled insults at Him" (v. 39).

But the other robber paid attention to the written notice above Jesus and to Jesus' words and made a request of his own.

Before he "turned his eyes upon Jesus," what did the second criminal say to the first?

What did the second criminal say to Jesus?

"Jesus,  
remember me  
when You come into Your kingdom" (v. 42).

### Jesus' Second "Word" from the Cross

How did Jesus respond to the second criminal's prayer request?

"I tell you the truth,  
today  
you  
will be with me  
in paradise" (v. 43).

What happened to that criminal after he drew his last breath?

### Takeaway

Which "criminal" are you/am I?

In addition to a profession of faith in Jesus, what else is required for salvation?

What happens to repentant sinners when they die?

