

## Luke 23: 39 to 43

A thought came to me about when Jesus was hanging on the cross at Calvary with both criminals hanging either side of Him when one criminal hurled insults at Him. The other rebuked him with the words “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve but this man has done nothing wrong.”

**First,** One criminal feared God.

**Second,** They are both being punished justly.

**Third,** The criminal who feared God claimed Jesus was innocent of the accusations leveled at Him.

**Fourth,** He asked Jesus to remember him in His kingdom.

And Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

I think the criminal who feared God probably never went to the synagogue or even read the scriptures and possibly never prayed in his life.

And yet when he called out to Jesus, He was saved from his criminal life and now dwells with Jesus for evermore.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, *that whoever believes in him* shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3: 16

**Jack**