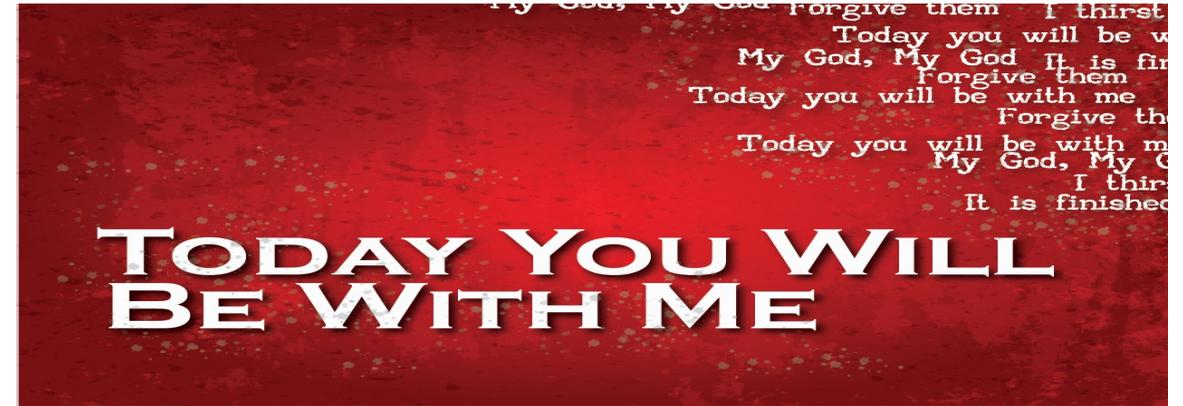


MY RESPONSE:

How is your heart impacted by Jesus' compassion for his mother and His mercy for the thief in the moment of his greatest agony? Is there anything you want to see change in the frequency of, or the kinds of things you bring to Him?

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom!" This touching plea is one of the few instances in Luke where Jesus is addressed by his personal name, not as "Lord," "sir," or "teacher." He humbly asks that Jesus remember him when he comes into his kingly power...Hearing Jesus petition to the Father to forgive his executioners gave this criminal the temerity to make a bold petition. He addresses Jesus as if he were God, who remembers people in his covenant mercy...Jesus replies, "Today, you will be with me in paradise." Salvation is not reserved for a distant future but is already present. If the man expects favorable regard from Jesus in some distant future, Jesus corrects him. Salvation is available immediately...Jesus, who is known as someone who "receives sinners" (15:2), implies that no distinctions will exist in paradise. This criminal who confesses at the last minute and asks to be with him will be hosted by Jesus in the highest heaven.—Davis Garland, Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament

Read John 14:9-11. Might there be ways you've viewed the Father that are inconsistent with Christ's love and mercy toward the thief and His mom? Explain.



Today You Will Be With Me...

God has enough _____

John 19:25-27; 1 Peter 5:7

You haven't _____ your _____

Matthew 27:41-44; Luke 23:39-43; John 14:9-11

TIME WITH GOD: If you don't currently have a Bible reading plan, you can download "Our Time with God" at spcc.tv/resources

REFLECTIONS: Whether you're using SPCC's reading plan or a different one, think about your time hearing and responding to Jesus this week. In your conversations with Him, describe one thing you felt Him speaking to you about.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: Is there something God spoke to you about through this weekend's message? What stood out to you?

There is something infinitely moving in the fact that Jesus in the agony of the Cross, in the moment when the salvation of the world hung in the balance, thought of the loneliness of his mother in the days when He was taken away. —Barclay

It is wonderful to remember that even as He hung dying on a Roman cross, suffering as the Lamb of God, He took thought of and made provision for His mother. — D.A. Carson

MY PERSPECTIVE: Do you recall a time when you "squirrelled" in conversation and embarrassed yourself (if you can't remember, consider asking your spouse)?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Luke 18:1-8 and 1 Peter 5:7 & Have you ever felt like God has big things to concern Himself with, like running the Universe, and that you might not want to bother Him with your small concerns? Do you tend to bring all your concerns to God, or just the major ones?

"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father..." - Jesus

Read Isaiah 1:18; Matthew 27:41-44; Luke 23:39-43. Have you ever felt like you'd gone too far in sin to be forgiven? Do you see God as eager to forgive or reluctant?
