

# in conclusion

WORDS FROM THE CROSS

## Luke 23:32-33; 39-42

<sup>32</sup> Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

## Background

On this Palm Sunday, Pastor David will continue in our series In Conclusion, looking at one of the most hopeful sayings from the cross of Jesus. The Gospel writers detail the interaction of those around the cross, specifically the soldiers and criminals hanging next to Jesus. Two men in the same situation. Two different views of Jesus. Two different responses. One criminal taunted Jesus. One criminal turned to Jesus. One heard silence. One found salvation. In light of the cross of Jesus, we all need to be reminder of who we are, who He is, and what He has done on our behalf so that we know without a doubt which side of the cross of Jesus we are on.

## Service Notes

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**What is your biggest takeaway from today's message?**

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## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Instructions

*This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.*

### Getting Started

- ▼ What stood out to you in this week’s sermon? What is one thought from the message that made you hopeful? What prompted questions? How can we pray for you?

### Talk it Over

- ▼ What does this story reveal about the heart of Jesus? What does this passage teach us about salvation? What can we learn about humanity from this passage? What part of the interaction between Jesus and the criminals challenges you the most? What gives you the most hope?
- ▼ **Read Luke 23:40-42** The second criminal did not walk down a church aisle nor offer a formal prayer of salvation. But in what ways can we see the criminal demonstrate saving faith or trusting belief in Jesus? What did he recognize about himself and Jesus? Why is this important for our own understanding of salvation? What can we learn from this experience?
- ▼ **Read Luke 23:43.** How does Jesus’ response give hope to you today? Which attitude do you most often demonstrate in your life – the first criminal (do this for me!) or the second criminal (please remember me!)?
- ▼ **Read John 6:35-40.** How does this passage help us understand Jesus’ response to the second criminal? In what ways does this passage give us hope and confidence in what Jesus has done for us? How can this passage help us more clearly share the Gospel with others?

### Live it Out

- ▼ What is the biggest ‘take away’ from the message or discussion that you can best apply to your life this week?

