

TWO CROOKS AND CHRIST

Pastor Ken Ritz * April 4, 2021 * New Life Vineyard Church

When You Compare Yourself With Other People:

- **You Feel Better About Yourself.**
- **You Feel Worse About Yourself.**

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with (Christ) 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.

Luke 23:32-33

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "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." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:39-43

The Forgiven One...

1) Admits _____.

We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.

Luke 23:41

For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws.

James 2:10 NLT

2) Asks to become part of Jesus'

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:42-43

For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law... We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes.

Romans 3:20-22 NLT

For Discussion

- How did you rate on your scale of 1-100? What does your number say to you about where you stand with God?
- How have you relied on your own goodness to get right with God?
- Unlike the thieves, you still have time left to live. If Jesus really is the Son of God who died to offer you complete forgiveness, how does your life need to change?

** All scriptures from NIV unless otherwise noted*