



Part 5: A Change of Heart

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Life's lowest moment bring with them the opportunity to see Jesus as the source of all hope.

³⁸ Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. – Matthew 27:38-44

Somewhere along the line, there was a moment of clarity.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."
– Luke 23:39-43

When you are low, go lower.

How do I go lower?

I fully embrace my moment of clarity

"We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve." (vs. 40)

I take a low view of myself and a high view of God

"But this man has done nothing wrong." (vs. 40)

I assume a humble posture

They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. – Matthew 27:28-29

vs.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. – 1 Peter 5:6

I lower the volume of my words (vs. 42)

Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. – Ecclesiastes 5:2

“Teach me, and I will be silent; make me understand how I have gone astray.” – Job 6:24

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.

– Habakkuk 2:20

What did the criminal on the cross say?

Jesus, remember me.

I wait for the beautiful exchange (vs. 42)

To you, Lord, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy: “What is gained if I am silenced, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness? Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me; Lord, be my help.” You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever. – Psalm 30:8-12

How does Jesus treat humble career criminals?

Today, you will be with me in paradise.

Next Steps

Whether you're brand new to CTK or you've been here a long time, our hope is that you will always be taking steps forward in your faith. This weekend we're making it as easy as possible to take the next step of baptism, participating in Alpha, or joining a small group. Listen for details at the end of the message.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What was the highlight of Easter week/weekend for you?
- 2) How do honestly feel about Jesus letting someone into his kingdom at the last minute of their life, without ever following him on earth?
- 3) Have you had a moment of clarity in your life regarding Jesus? What happened?
- 4) Which of the “going lower” actions is most difficult for you (embracing, low view of self/high view of God, posture, lowering the volume, waiting)? Why?
- 5) What is your next spiritual step?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?