

47 Words Series
Today
5/03/25
Newport News

Opening

- (financial update)
- New series...16,000 words on average every day!!!
- What if you knew the last moment of your life, how would you spend your last 6 hours, what would be your final words...
- This series is the answer to that for Jesus...
- These were His 47

- 1. Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**
- 2. Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise.**
- 3. Woman, behold thy son! Behold thy mother.**
- 4. My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?**
- 5. I thirst.**
- 6. It is finished.**
- 7. Father, into thy hands I commend My spirit.**

The Crucifixion

- Our Timeline

- **The Last Supper (Luke 22:14)**
- **Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36)**
- **The Arrest (John 18:12)**
- **Caiaphas's House (Luke 22:54)**
- **Pilate (Mark 15:1)**
- **Herod (Luke 23:6-10)**
- **Pilate Again (Luke 23:11)**
- **Sentenced (Luke 23:23-24)**
- **Crucifixion (Luke 23:33)**

- (circle back to last week: laments, protest, anger...can all also be virtuous...we see these in the life of Jesus too...what virtue is needed now)

Introduction

-**Luke 23:35-43**... "Today shalt thou be..."

-**Matthew 27:38-44**

- Does Luke's account contradict Matthew?
- Matthew is how they began...
- Luke is where they finished...
- 6 hours with Jesus...

Paradise Now

-**Today...your best life is waiting on the other side of the best version of yourself, and the best version of yourself is only possible with Jesus.**

>This one thief only had a few hours of his best life because he only had a few hours as the best version of himself because of Jesus!

>The unrepentant thief...same EVERYTHING...yet unyielding!

>My biggest regret in life manifested at my greatest moment in life...that I didn't reach for Jesus sooner!

-**Today...your best life is waiting on the other side of the best version of yourself (identity, character, individuality, purpose), and the best version of yourself is only possible with Jesus.**

>identity: a child of God (JC baptism & transfig.) and life roles

>character: reference Praxis book

>individuality: no say-personality, ethnicity, family, history, etc.

>purpose: **I have a calling, that leads to an assignment, in a life filled with purpose giving identities.**

(HUSBAND, FATHER, BUILDER EQUAL IN SENSE OF PURPOSE BUT FIRST TWO GREATER PRIORITY)

The Repentant Thief

-**What do we know about this thief?**

Given his mode of execution, we know he was more than a thief, in addition, Matthew called him a revolutionary. He was most likely an insurrectionist, with all probability being that Barabbas was supposed to be the third man. This man's thievery was likely activity in support of an organized rebellion against Roman rule. And his plea to his friend would not have been the first time he recruited...imagine him recruiting others to his cause in a fight against Rome! And now, here he is, not realizing that God had been preparing him to be a great evangelist in his final hours...come, join us brother, let us die for the greatest of Kingdoms!

-His calling: liberator

-His assignment: The Evangelist of Golgotha

-Romans 10:9-11, 14-15

-Today...remember that as a child of God, we all have a responsibility to see the people within our reach who need to see Jesus.

Paradise Later

-Let's not lose sight though of what's about to happen...both of these thieves are about to enter into eternity tragically differently.

-Luke 23:35-43

>Jesus is making one of His boldest claims of all the seven. The word paradise that Jesus uses is the same word in the Greek that when the OT was first translated into Greek (Septuagint), it was used to describe the Garden of Eden!

-Matthew 25:31-46

>We are all a picture of the two thieves...who are you at this moment in your own story?

Band

I am at one with God, rescued from myself, just as if I'm perfect, because Jesus paid it all.

1. one of the most sobering realities of Scripture
2. Universalism is a myth
3. Inclusive vs. Exclusive