

What Do You Seek?

Take-Home 4: The Man Beside Him

Keep your Week 1 sheet safe, box folded. Two sessions to go.

What We Found

A dying man told a stadium of graduates that remembering death was the most useful tool he ever found. Then we stood at the story's hardest place: three crosses, and on the outer two, identical men making opposite answers. One demanded escape; the other brought the only two things he had left, honesty about his guilt and one free ask: "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingly power." The answer outran the request: not remembered someday but accompanied today, "with me in Paradise." Behind the scene we found Isaiah 53, written centuries early: wounded for our transgressions, numbered with the transgressors. Piece Four went on the table: the wall between us and God was not explained away; it was paid for, in person, and the payment was love. Forgiveness always costs the forgiver; the cross is God absorbing that cost Himself.

The Story So Far

Piece One: You were made, on purpose, for a relationship with God; the restlessness is a homing signal.
Piece Two: Something real stands between us and what we were made for; a disease with a physician.
Piece Three: The answer is a person, who asks each of us directly who we say He is.
Piece Four: On the cross, God paid for the wall in person. Two men hung the same distance from Him; only one asked.

Voices Worth Keeping

St. Ambrose *Exposition of Luke (summary)*

The thief asked only to be remembered and received Paradise, today, with Christ: the Lord always gives more than He is asked.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem *Catechetical Lectures (summary)*

Teaching converts within sight of Calvary: a man entered Paradise from a cross, on a single believing sentence.

Commonly attributed to St. Augustine *attribution uncertain*

"Do not despair: one of the thieves was saved. Do not presume: one of the thieves was damned."

Live It This Week

1. Make one decision this week as if your time were short. Notice what it clarifies.
2. Read Isaiah 53 in full, alone, once.
3. Optional: read John 3:1-21 before next time.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingly power. And he said to him, Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” **Luke 23:42-43**

Before Next Session

Read **John 3:1-21**. A respected teacher comes to Jesus at night, with the questions he could not ask in daylight.

Catechism references from tonight: CCC 601, 604, 1021.