

168-6005

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Five

THE MINISTRY OF SALVATION (3):  
THE SALVATION OF A CONDEMNED CRIMINAL

**Burden to Impart:**

*Every person needs God's salvation, and it is available to anyone, even a condemned criminal, if he would just repent and believe in the Lord Jesus.*

**Memory Verse:** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

**Facts to Teach:** [Scripture reading: Luke 23:39-43]

1. At the place called Skull or Golgotha (Calvary) Jesus was crucified between two robbers, criminals.

2. While the Lord was on the cross both the criminals spoke very roughly and mockingly to him, challenging Him to come down from the cross and save them if He were truly the Son of God.

3. However, as the hours passed, one of the criminals' hearts softened and he felt regretful for the foolish and unkind words he had spoken to the Lord. It can be seen that he repented when he later rebuked the other mocking criminal and said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are in the same judgment? and we indeed justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we did, but this Man has done nothing wrong" (Luke 23:40-41).

4. After rebuking the other criminal, this one then turned to Jesus and said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom," thus showing to the Lord that he believed in Him and His ability to save him."

5. The Lord Jesus then said to the criminal, "Truly, I tell you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

6. This incident at the very moment of the criminal's death shows us how effective the Lord Jesus' salvation is: a criminal could instantly be saved from perishing. One minute the criminal was on his way to a perishing death, but the next, the Lord promised him that he would be with Him in Paradise.

7. Paradise is the pleasant section of Hades, where the spirits of Abraham and all of the saved ones are awaiting the resurrection. The Lord Jesus went to Paradise after His death and stayed there until His resurrection.

### QUESTIONS FOR LESSON FIVE

1. What was the name of the place where Jesus and the two thieves were crucified? (Luke 23:33)
2. After one of the robbers blasphemed Jesus, what did the other robber say back to the blaspheming robber? (Luke 23:40-41)
3. What did the repentant robber say to Jesus? (Luke 23:42)
4. What did Jesus say to the repentant robber? (Luke 23:43)
5. What does this tell us about the Lord Jesus' salvation?
6. Write the memory verse below.