

## The Criminal on the Cross

One of the subplots of the crucifixion of Jesus involved the conversation of Jesus and one of the robbers being crucified.

He said, *Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom* (Lk. 23:42). Why would a dying man ask another dying man to remember him? Why would he ask about a future kingdom? How did he know about that kingdom? This thief knew they would live after death and previously heard someone tell about that kingdom. He had lived in rebellion to the truth he knew---spiritual things were not new to him.

Jesus exceeded the robber's request, saying *...today, you will be with Me in Paradise* (Lk. 23:43). Jesus forgave Him of his sins, knowing all things about this man we do not (How and what did he know about the kingdom? Had he been baptized by John [Mk. 1:5]?). The *Paradise* Jesus referred to is the place of rest in Hades which will end when God raises and judges us all (Acts 2:31; Rev. 20:13-14).

Do the gospel writers contradict each other, in what they write? Can we be forgiven of sins exactly as the robber was? Is baptism essential today? Contact us for a free CD covering these questions or listen to it on our website today.