



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – October 25, 2020

To Know Christ...

While Jesus walked on earth, He had the authority to forgive sin. He still has all authority in heaven and on earth now. (Matthew 28:18) Can you imagine being told by Jesus, "your sins are forgiven" or "you will be with Me in paradise"? A paralyzed man who came to the Lord Jesus motivated by faith was told, "Son, your sins are forgiven." (Mark 2:5) Then to remove any doubt about the authority of Jesus to forgive sins on earth, Jesus commanded the paralyzed man to get up and walk home. **AND THE FORGIVEN MAN GOT UP AND WALKED HOME!** What was the miracle teaching the listeners about Jesus' Authority to Forgive?

Jesus was welcomed at the home of a Pharisee. A lowly rejected woman (labelled in town as "a sinner") came into the room. The religious ridiculed Jesus, thinking He surely is not a prophet because He *allowed* this woman to weep sorrowfully on Jesus' feet and dry them with her hair. Then she kissed His feet and anointed them with perfume. As the events come to a climax (because of this "sinners" love for Jesus), He tells her, "Your sins have been forgiven." (Luke 7:48) Then after those reclining with Jesus at the table scoffed at Him, Jesus tells her, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (v50) What would it be like to hear Jesus tell you by His Authority, "YOU ARE FORGIVEN."

The Thief on the cross is such a unique account of forgiveness. Both thieves (robbers) being crucified with Jesus are insulting Him at one point like the religious leaders were. (Matthew 27:44) Many claim they want to be saved like the thief on the cross ... just believe, but they leave out the greatest parallel ... the thief was crucified with Jesus! If you want to be saved like the thief who turned to faith, you must also be crucified with Christ Jesus. **TELL THE WHOLE STORY!** The thief who was previously insulting Jesus, realizes he and the other thief are getting what they deserve; what they earned by their actions. (Luke 23:41) The penitent thief says, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" Then Jesus told him, "...you will be with Me in paradise."

We are saved the same way as the thief on the cross, if you really think about the whole picture. Listen to Paul, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20) We were once a people who mocked God (both thieves mocked God), but one turned to faith in the sinless (perfect) Jesus. We all deserve to be crucified for our sins: that would be the price due. When were you crucified with Christ and turned to faith? ...go read Romans 6:3-7. In the context of the passage, our old self was "crucified with Him." We were crucified with Christ in baptism. Then in verse 7 ... "for he who has died is freed from sin." WE ARE FORGIVEN! We were crucified with Christ through baptism (like the thief on the cross was literally crucified with Christ). Jesus responds to those who continue in the faith, you will be with Me in paradise. You stand forgiven by the Authority of Jesus Christ, the Savior! Which thief are we like that was crucified with Christ? Faithful and penitent? Or insulting and mocking?

- Carey Terry