

# The Touch of Jesus

*“Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.” (Luke 4:40)*

Lessons from miracles Jesus did, as they are recorded in the Book of Luke.

## LESSON 11: Saving A Sinner

*“And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:42-43)*

As you listen to the teacher, fill in the blanks!

1. How many blind men were healed in Jericho? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The blind man got the blessing through his \_\_\_\_\_.
3. After he received his sight, the man \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

The twenty-third chapter of the Book of Luke tells the dramatic story of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. This is a story of injustice, of tragedy, and of death, but even there at Calvary we see Jesus performing a miracle. It was the same miracle He performed for the man with palsy in Luke 5:18-20, the salvation of the soul. The miracle of salvation is described in terms of the forgiveness of sins in that account. It is described in a parable in Luke 18:9-14 in terms of the justification of a sinner. It is the miracle that makes a sinner who is deserving of Hell fit to go to Heaven! There is no greater miracle. Let's see how it happened for the thief on the cross. Read Luke 23:33-43.

### ***“The Due Reward of Our Deeds”***

The miracle of salvation began for the thief

with the miracle of *conviction*. The books of Matthew (27:44) and Mark (15:32) both tell us that, when Jesus was crucified, *both* of the thieves that “*were crucified with Him reviled Him.*” Then, according to Luke, something changed a bit later in the mind and heart of one of the thieves. His change of mind came as a result of God-given “conviction.” We read about this in John 8:7-9, and it is described in John 16:7-15. It is the miracle of the Holy Spirit that convinces the sinner of the truth about his sin, Christ's righteousness, and judgment to come (See also Acts 24:24-25). We find the Spirit performing this miracle in Acts 2:37, 4:33, 7:54, and 9:5. Nobody gets saved until they are convicted! Look at John 6:44-47. The thief that changed his mind and quit reviling Christ was under conviction. His words prove this fact. See what he said in

verses 40 and 41. He admitted his guilt and the justice of his condemnation. In verse 42 he acknowledged the Lordship of Christ. Until a sinner is convicted of his sins, the justice of his condemnation, and the Lordship of Christ, he cannot believe and be saved. When you pray for a lost person, pray for God to convict him. When you witness to a lost person, be filled with the convicting Spirit. If you are aware of your unsaved standing before God, *you are now under conviction*, and ought to turn to Christ for salvation.

### ***“Lord, Remember Me”***

The convicted thief turned to the Lord Jesus for his salvation. We see this in the words he spoke in verse 42, and in the promise Jesus made to Him in verse 43. He asked Jesus to “*remember*” him when He came into His kingdom. The Bible teaches that a person can be saved in connection with a prayer he prays. See this in Luke 18:13-14. Find the promise in Romans 10:13 that anyone who calls on the Lord for salvation will be saved. It isn’t the prayer itself that saves you, we learn in Romans 10:9-10. It is “*with the heart*” that one “*believeth unto righteousness*.” See this also in Romans 10:14. To call upon the Lord for salvation, one must also believe. Salvation is *by faith* (Ephesians 2:8-9). But faith in Christ can be expressed in an earnest prayer.

Notice that the prayer of the penitent thief did not contain a lot of correct theology. As a matter of fact, it was a little misguided.

*“Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”*

The Kingdom will not be set up until the Second Coming of Christ! This man didn’t understand Bible prophecy well, but he did get saved from his sins! Notice in verse 41 that he acknowledged his own sinfulness and Christ’s innocence. See in verse 42 that he believed in Christ’s Lordship and was turning in faith to Him for salvation. The words of his prayer were not exactly right, but the faith in his

heart was enough to save him! It’s not hard to be saved if you will turn from your sin to the Savior!

### ***“Paradise”***

Jesus promised the new believer that he would be “*in paradise*” with the Lord that very day. Before the afternoon was over, both men would die on crosses (John 19:30-35). And both would be in paradise. Where is paradise anyway? The word is an oriental word that means a beautiful garden or park. It is used again in II Corinthians 12:2-4, where the place called “*paradise*” is identified. It is in “*the third heaven*.” The Bible refers to the atmosphere of the earth as “*heaven*” (Genesis 1:7-8). It also calls outer space “*heaven*” (Mark 13:25). The third heaven is the abode of God, out beyond the earth (See Revelation 4:2). Of course, God is everywhere, but there is a place above where the Lord especially dwells. This is paradise, and it is where the saved malefactor went when he died.

Notice that he was going to paradise that very day. The Bible teaches that a Christian goes to Heaven immediately when he dies. Look at Luke 16:22. Also see Philippians 1:23. See in II Corinthians 5:8 that when we are “*absent from the body*” we are “*present with the Lord*.” When the spirit leaves the body of a believer in Christ, it goes directly into the presence of the Lord! There he waits for Christ’s second coming and the resurrection of the just. Read about these events in I Thessalonians 4:14-17.