



I Want to be in the Kingdom

In our final lesson in this series about the kingdom of God, we want to look at a man who wanted to be in that kingdom. He recognized the value and importance of being in the Kingdom of God. Our focus is upon one sentence, nine words.

Luke 23:42 “And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!”

A. Background to this event

1. Jesus was placed between two robbers (Mt 27:38)
 - Luke calls them “criminals” (23:32)
 - it is likely that Barabbas was the leader of this band of thieves
 - Matthew calls him: notorious prisoner (27:16)
 - Mark says he was an insurrectionist who had committed murder (15:7)
 - Luke states that the insurrection and murder took place in the city (Jerusalem) (23:19)
 - the justice of Rome was the execution of these prisoners

Why was Barabbas not executed?

Did you know:

The name Barabbas (bar=son/abba=father) means: son of father.
Jesus is the Son of God (Father)

Why was the choice of execution a cross?

2. At first, both robbers were insulting Jesus (Mt 27:44)
3. One of the robbers has a change of heart (Lk 23:40-41)

What made him change his mind about Jesus?

What two things did he recognize?

B. What the nine word sentence of the penitent thief shows:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.
- The other thief wanted Jesus to rescue him
 - The disciples were discouraged
 - The rulers mocked
 - The soldiers ridiculed
 - The crowd shook their heads

How did he know and why would he want to be in Jesus' kingdom?

If both thieves witnessed the same things in Jesus why didn't both repent?

How did this penitent thief illustrate some of the kingdom parables?