

Sermon Reflection Questions: “Contrasts at The Cross” (Luke 23:32-43)

C.S. Lewis famously wrote: “Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.” How have you seen this play out in the world around you? How about in your own heart?

Respond to this quote by Kent Hughes: *He did not say, “Remember my works.” Neither did he say, “Remember that I aligned myself with you in your death.” He said only, “Remember me.” He asked for mercy. That is all any of us can ask for. The dying words of the devout astronomer Copernicus were: “I do not ask for the grace that you gave St. Paul; nor can I dare to ask for the grace that you granted to St. Peter; but, the mercy which you did show to the dying robber, that mercy, show to me.”*

Why is it so hard for us to believe that Christ actually saves by grace? Why do we feel like we need to add our works to the equation? Why do we feel like we somehow need to keep proving ourselves?

Who do you resemble more at the moment? → the thief humbly asking for grace for his own offenses before God or the proud Pharisee grumbling over every offense of others?

Why is the “Law (DO) vs. Gospel (DONE)” distinction so crucial to our understanding of how salvation works according to the Scripture? Why is this so hopeful for you?