

BATON ROUGE CRUSADE
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

October 23, 1970.

"The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ"

"The Forgetfulness of God"

~~REMEMBER~~

TEXT: Luke 23:42-43:

"Remember me when thou
comest into thy Kingdom.

"And Jesus said unto him,
Verily I say unto thee,
Today shalt thou be with
Me in paradise."

INTRODUCTION:

~~—~~ The crucifixion of Christ.

- ~~-~~ Bring out the prisoner.
- ~~-~~ Soldiers enter prison.
- ~~-~~ Took crimson robe.
- ~~-~~ Beat Him again.
- ~~-~~ Took two other condemned men, robbers and murderers.
- ~~-~~ Made them carry their cross.
- ~~-~~ A herald marched in front with a placard on which was written the crime.
- ~~-~~ Big crowd followed along, cursing, swearing, throwing rocks.
- ~~-~~ A few women who had known Jesus and loved Him were weeping and wailing.
- ~~-~~ Jesus stumbles and falls.
- ~~-~~ Simon of Cyrene from Africa.
- ~~-~~ An African will always be remembered by those who in this world help Christ to bear His cross.

~~--~~ Soldiers hardened to the terrible duty. Drove the nails in.

~~--~~ Medicated wine offered.

~~--~~ Jesus refused.

~~--~~ People laugh and taunt: "He saved others. Himself He cannot save."

~~--~~ "You worked great miracles. Work one more! Save yourself!"

~~--~~ "You saved Lazarus from the dead; you restored the widow's son; you brought the daughter of the ruler back to life."

~~--~~ "You opened the eyes of the blind; you cured ten lepers. Come on! Save yourself! Do one more miracle!"

~~--~~ The murderers and robbers also began to mock Him.

-- Suddenly one of the thieves ceased to mock. A new strange look came over his distorted face.

-- Silent for a long time. Suddenly said to the other thief,

"Be silent; Dost thou not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man has done nothing amiss" (Luke 23:40-41).

-- Suddenly turns to Christ and says:

"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."

-- Jesus replied: "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

-- Here is all the Gospel of REPENTANCE, FAITH and SALVATION.

1. REPENTANCE:

- ~~—~~ Only deathbed repentance in the Bible.
- ~~—~~ The Holy Spirit working in his heart.
- ~~—~~ Perhaps the prayer of Jesus, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," had touched him.
- ~~—~~ Perhaps it was what Jesus said to John about His mother.
- ~~—~~ He confessed his sins.
- ~~—~~ Other thief must have laughed at him and said, "When did you turn preacher? You talk as if you had a better record than I have."
- ~~—~~ "We strangled an old merchant for his gold; you kidnapped a child from a villa; you tormented a young man until he revealed his hidden treasure; you raped a young girl."

2. FAITH:

- ~~--~~ Those who believe on Jesus today have the Bible, the testimony of history, the testimony of the church, the testimony of thousands, but this poor thief had none of those advantages.
- ~~--~~ Many of the great theologians were in the crowd who did not understand what was going on.
- ~~--~~ This murderer and thief had faith to see another crown than the crown of thorns.

3. SALVATION:

- ~~--~~ He said, "when thou comest", as if he were thinking of some far off remote age when Christ would set up His Kingdom, or perhaps he thought Jesus might call him someday in the resurrection.

~~→~~ But to his joy and surprise Jesus answered, "TODAY thou shalt be with Me in paradise."

~~→~~ The thief had asked only to be remembered. He did not ask to be preferred.

~~→~~ He was to be taken at once into the highest of the heavens at the side of Jesus.

~~→~~ Wonder what the angels who were watching were thinking.

~~→~~ All of heaven was wondering who was going to be the first one to come. It was not Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, John the Baptist.

~~→~~ No! It was a thief and a robber!

~~→~~ Snatched as a brand out of the burning.

~~—~~ Would like to dwell on the word
"remember".

~~—~~ However, there is one thing God
cannot remember:

~~—~~ Jeremiah 31:34:

"I will forgive their iniquity,
and I will remember their sin
no more."

~~—~~ The thought of forgetfulness on the part
of God is at first a bit jarring.

~~—~~ We are not accustomed to associat-
ing forgetfulness with Him.

~~—~~ To speak of His forgetting seems
almost irreverent.

I. WE FORGET:

~~—~~ We think of forgetfulness as peculiar
to ourselves. We regard it as purely
a human characteristic. Forgetfulness
is one of the chief infirmities of the
human race.

1. We forget each other's names:

ILL: People come up to me and say,
"Don't you remember me?"

Ill. Bob Att

-- "Your face is familiar."

-- Time after time we find ourselves
humiliatingly forgetful of both
names and the faces of people
that we really ought to know.

2. We forget our promises:

-- We forget the pledges that
we make one to another.

ILL: Man forgets marriage vow.

-- You promised at the marriage
altar that you would "live
with her according to God's
holy ordinance; that you
would love, honor, comfort,
and keep her in sickness
and in health, so long as
you both should live."

-- But you have not always been loving; you have not always been loyal; you have forgotten your marriage vows.

Marriage A Vow We forget vows we make to God.

-- Numbers 30:2:

"If a man vow a vow unto the Lord, ~~or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond;~~ he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth."

→ Psalms 50:14:

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High;

"And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me."

~~—~~ Ecclesiastes 5:4:

"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it.

"Better is it that thou shouldst not vow, than that thou shouldst vow and not pay."

3. We forget those we love:

ILL: Your mother has looked eagerly day after day for a letter from you.

Your wife's heart is aching for a bit of appreciation.

Your husband is hungering for something of the tender thoughtfulness of the old days.

4. We forget God:

~~—~~ We forget where our existence came from.

*Son at College
forgot to call or
write.*

~~-~~ World forgets to thank God for the sun and the rain.

~~-~~ Christians forget to pray and read His love letters.

ILL: ~~Wife~~ ~~writing~~ letter,
~~and~~ ~~not~~ opened.

II. WHAT DOES GOD FORGET?

1. God never forgets His universe:

~~-~~ He has a million solar systems to look after. His stars are as numberless as the sands of the sea, but He never forgets one of them.

~~-~~ If the sun should stand still, part of our continent would become a parched desert, and the other would be a glacier.

-- He never forgets to put the crimson on the skies.

2. God remembers you:

- He knows all your problems, difficulties, and burdens.
- He loves you and is interested in you. *Prisoner of War*
- He does not forget you.

3. God never forgets our sins:Numbers 32:23:

"...and be sure your sin will find you out."

Galatians 6:7:

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Ecclesiastes 12:14:

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with

ILL: Watermelon story.

~~—~~ God will judge and punish sin.

~~—~~ You say, "God is not just in punishing sinners."

~~—~~ He is just, because He punishes sinners by a law:

"Where there is no law,
there is no transgression."

~~—~~ But God has given men a law,
and they break it; therefore
he punishes them justly.

~~—~~ God is just in punishing sinners
because He never punished them
but upon full proof and evidence.

~~—~~ Man's own conscience will be
a witness against him at the
Judgment.

III. HOWEVER, GOD CAN FORGET SIN --
BECAUSE OF CHRIST:

~~-~~ 11 Corinthians 5:21:

"He hath made Him to
be sin for us."

~~-~~ Isaiah 53:6:

"The Lord hath laid on Him
the iniquity of us all."

~~-~~ 1 Peter 2:24:

"Who His own self bare our
sins in His own body on
the tree."

~~-~~ 1 Peter 3:18:

"Christ also hath once
suffered for sins, the just
for the unjust."

~~-~~ Hebrews 1:3:

"When He had by Himself
purged our sins."

~~-~~ When you repent of sin and come to Christ as Saviour, then

~~-~~ your sins are purged (Hebrews 1:3),

~~-~~ your sins are blotted out (Isa. 43:25),

~~-~~ your sins are put away (Psalms 103:12),

~~-~~ your sins are behind His back
(Isaiah 38:17).

~~-~~ your sins are cast into the sea
(Micah 7:19).

~~-~~ Then, Hebrews 10:17 says:

Our sins are remembered no more!

~~-~~ God is the only Person in the universe that has the ability to forget.

~~-~~ He can forget every sin you have committed.

~~-~~ "Lord, remember me."

~~-~~ God remembers to forget!