**CRUSHING CRIMINAL’S CRIMES ON THE CROSS**

 **Text Luke 23:43**

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

1. **OPENING MESSAGE:**
* If a criminal can come to Christ, Christ will crush his crimes.
* **John 6:37** *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*
* A criminal is a child of sorrow, he does not gladden his parents.
* **Proverbs 17: 25** *A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.*
* A life full of crimes is a life of crises.
* Availability of crushing criminal’s crimes on the cross is a wonderful opportunity which a criminal should never miss.
* **Hebrews 2:3** “*How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation…”*
* I find something so amazing about Jesus Christ.
* There is one Yoruba adage which says; many are the days of a thief; but one day is enough for the owner to arrest and punish the thief.
* But to Jesus, one day is enough to save and forgive the criminal.
* Therefore, today, all condemned criminals shall be saved.
1. **THE TRUE STORY OF A CRIMINAL WHO WAS SAVED AT HIS LAST MINUTES ON EARTH.**
* This story is found in **Luke 23: 39-43.**
* Two certified criminals were brought to the cross for crucifixion with Jesus. One on the left hand side and the other on the right hand side.
* One got saved and the other perished.
* This is how it happened:
1. On the cross, **Jesus separated the saved criminal from his crime partner.**
* Salvation of any criminal begins from his separation from evil companion
* **The bible says 1Corinthians 15: 33** *Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits*
1. **The saved criminal was a sinner and not a wicked man.**
* A chief sinner can easily be saved but a poor wicked person can hardly repent.
* If you are looking for a miserable person, look for the wicked.
* **1Tmothy 1:15** *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*
* Here we see clearly that Paul was a sinner and not a wicked man. He said; “Jesus came to save sinners…”
1. **The saved criminal was humbled.**
* He humbled himself when he came across Jesus on the cross.
* Humility enabled him to accept his condemnation without being rationalised.
* Humility enabled him to acknowledge his wrongs and seek pardon if he could get any.
* By humility the prodigal son came back to his father when he came back to his senses.
* Humility will give you a soften heart to come to Christ for salvation while pride makes your heart more hardened.
* Do you know that; humility is the pathway to salvation while pride is the highway to destruction?
* That is why the bible says; In **Proverbs 16:18** Pride goeth before destruction
1. **The saved criminal did not mock Jesus on the cross unlike his partner.**
* One grievous offence usually committed by criminals is an act of mocking God and his servants.
* Some young children mocked Prophet Elisha in Bethel and they were devoured by a bear. **2Kings 2: 23-24**
* A story was told of a man who smoke cigarette and out-haled the flame into the air and said that one is for God. Few months later, he died of lung cancer.
* **There are utterances that justify while there are utterances that condemn.**
* Therefore, always speak words that will justify you!
1. **The saved criminal came across Salvation opportunity on his last day on earth and he didn’t miss it.**
* The bible says in **Hebrews 3:15** While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.
* Anyone who hardens his heart on the day of salvation is a son of perdition.
* The criminal realised that he was not only the ones in the prison that were awaiting execution.
* He realised that; choosing him to be crucified with Jesus was a great advantage.
* Do you know that you there are many criminals who do not have the opportunity of hearing gospel message?
* It is a great opportunity for you to hear that which you are hearing.
* **So missing salvation opportunity is like losing your immunity.**
* At the last minute, the crimes of the criminal were crushed on the cross.
* THAT WAS HOW JESUS GAVE HIM ETERNAL AMNESTY.
* And now, he is in the paradise with Jesus; while the other perished.
1. **BY THE WAY; WHO ARE THE CRIMINALS?**
* Any man who pursues another man’s wife for sexual immorality.
* Any woman/lady who covets and diverts the heart of another man unto herself for sinful activities.
* Those who commit all forms of sexual immoralities.
* The rapists.
* Those who still watch pornography.
* Those who still masturbate.
* Those who still steal.
* Those who still tell lies.
* The smokers
* The cults.
* Those who dress indecently.
* The backbiters.
* The unrighteous.
* The unfaithful to spouse.
* Those who commit abortion
* The wicked
* Those who engage in Satanism for troubling the church.
* The witches
* The hypocrites.
* Those who have mistress outside their marriage.
* Those who scatter the church.
* Those who still use charms.
* Those who are in the church but not saved.
* Those who refuse to accept the gospel.
* Those who dress to seduce men.
* The prostitutes.
* The deceitful.
* You are a certified criminal, but your crimes can be crushed on the cross by Jesus.
* Therefore, this could be your last sermon opportunity on earth, avoid missing.
* If you can just be ready to carry all the crimes to Jesus, He would crush them now.
* And you too will be given eternal amnesty.
* Therefore, are you ready for salvation of your soul?
* **Altar call.**