The Hope of Easter

A journey through the Easter story

Day 12: The Thief on the cross

Read Luke 23:26-43

It’s an odd place to begin a discussion about beliefs. Jesus is hanging on a cross between two criminals when one of the criminals begins to mock Jesus. He asks Jesus to prove that’s he’s God. Surely when you’re bleeding to death it’s no time for arrogance. This criminal is like many people who don’t want help and think they don’t need anyone to save him. He mocks Jesus when he’s on a highway to hell.

The other criminal finds something the first criminal doesn’t possess: Humility. He says that he deserves to die for his sins and asks Jesus to remember him.

As this criminal was dying for his crimes, Jesus was dying for his sins. His forgiveness was immediate and complete. Jesus absolutely welcomes us the moment we recognize that we’re sinners in need of a saviour.

It’s never too late to say yes to Jesus.

1. The thief on the cross reminds us that’s no one is too far gone to turn to Jesus. Who do you need to be praying for today?
2. God’s love goes to great length to redeem people, is God asking you to go to great lengths to show someone God’s love?

We encourage you to take time to pray and thank God for the depths of his love (Ephesians 3:18).