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❖SERMON NOTES❖

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Sunday, March 18, 2018

**“HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS”**

(Luke 23:39-43)

Do you need hope? Some people need hope in one unsteady area of life. Maybe it's in marriage, the workplace, or health. For others, everything feels overwhelming and hopeless. In today's Bible story we will learn that if a broken man, in a broken world condemned to die on a cross can find hope in Jesus, so can we.

*“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4, ESV).*

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3, CSB).*

1. We enter heaven by \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 42).

2. We enter heaven the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 43a).

3. We enter heaven to \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 43c).

4. We enter heaven to \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 43b).

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**“HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS”**

(Luke 23:39-43)

*“Grace and peace from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne; and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the commander of all the rulers of the world. All praise to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. He has made us his Kingdom and his priests who serve before God his Father. Give to him everlasting glory! He rules forever and ever! Amen!”* (Revelation 1:4-6, NLT).

*“He is not here. For he has risen”* (Matthew 28:6, CSB). Paul wrote, *“And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless, and you are still under condemnation for your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ have perished! And if we have hope in Christ only for this life, we are the most miserable people in the world. But the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead. He has become the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again”* (1 Corinthians 15:17-20, NLT).

*“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me”* (John 14:1, ESV).

*“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal”* (2 Corinthians 4:16-18, ESV).

*“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope”* (Romans 15:4, ESV).

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”* (1 Peter 1:3, CSB).

*“What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for”* (1 Peter 1:3, The Message).

**1. We enter heaven by faith in Jesus (v. 42).**

*“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:6-8, ESV).

**2. We enter heaven the moment we die (v. 43a).**

**3. We enter heaven to experience paradise (v. 43c).**

**4. We enter heaven to be with Christ (v. 43b).**