

REDEEMER & FRIEND

March 29, 2026

THE ONE WHERE GRACE SKIPPED THE LINE

“Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Luke 23:32-43 (NIV)

The Redeemer and Friend on the Cross

1. Our Friend made redemption _____.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

John 6:29 (NLT) – “Jesus told them, “This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent.”

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2. _____ shouldn't drift into _____.

Colossians 2:6 (NLT) – “And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.”

Galatians 3:3 (NLT) – “How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?”

Galatians 3:26-27 (NLT) – “For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.”

1 Corinthians 11:26 (TLB) – “For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you are retelling the message of the Lord’s death, that he has died for you. Do this until he comes again.”

Ephesians 2:19 (TLB) – “Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God’s very own family, citizens of God’s country, and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.”

Hebrews 10:14 (NIV) – “For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”

3. The most important thing to _____ is the _____.

Hebrews 12:2 (GNT) – “Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end.”

John 15:4-5 (NLT) – “Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

2 Timothy 2:13 (TLB) – “Even when we are too weak to have any faith left, he remains faithful to us and will help us, for he cannot disown us who are part of himself, and he will always carry out his promises to us.”

“Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life.””

John 6:68 (NLT)

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