



EQUIPPING U

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION/MARCH 2013

The Crucifixion

Luke 23:32-43

"Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with [Jesus]. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

FATHER FORGIVE THEM

And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."



Remember Me

Look at the cross of Christ, for there you will see the love of God clearly demonstrated.

he prove Himself to you in ways He has never promised.

If your eyes are on your light and momentary afflictions—your wounds, your hurts, your disappointments—you might be tempted to believe the lie that God has forgotten you and demand that

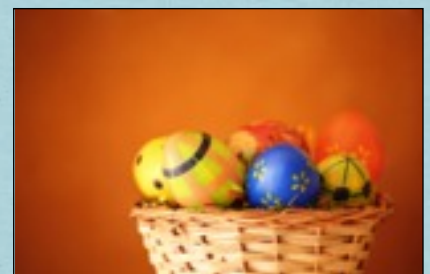
Making demands of God is nothing new, it began the moment the forbidden fruit was eaten in the garden. Since then each of us have had expectations of what God should do, along with when and how He should accomplish it.



TEACHING TIP. Begin praying for the families and individuals who will visit your church this Easter. Ask that their hearts will be good soil for the gospel.



TEACHING TIP. As a teacher don't be concerned about the size of your "class." Perhaps God has a specific person he wants you to invest in one-on-one.



TEACHING TIP. Ministry-to-children.com is a great online resource for teachers. Check out the free, creative Easter lessons, crafts, coloring pages, and more!

We've seen it. We've done it: The single man demanding God prove His care by sending a wife. The infertile woman demanding God prove His goodness by creating life in her womb. The diseased demanding The Almighty prove His power and love with a miracle of healing.

Demands flow constant and unyielding from people who do not recognize God and His ways.

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Scripture speaks of Christ's final moments yielding His sinless, eternal life to death. As He exerts His battered body for each gasp of breath, the Son of God bears more demands.

Scoffing rulers and mocking soldiers insist he save Himself to prove He is the Messiah and the rightful King. The railing criminal joins the din, demanding Jesus not only save Himself but also rescue him from the pain he was enduring.

Yet above the crowd, one man made no demands. He feared God too much. He knew his evil ways and accepted that his execution was just. Though condemned, he could not be silent a moment longer amidst the indefensible demands the rulers,

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Bea von Oeyen

ICEA is a volunteer staffed ministry. Each month Equipping U highlights and honors one of our faithful volunteers.

If you've been equipped and encouraged by a workshop at one of ICEA's conferences over the past 30 years, it's because Bea has been working diligently behind the scenes coordinating them. Thank you, Bea, for your 60 years of faithful service to God through ICEA, and for your commitment to pray that God will revive the hearts of His people.

soldiers, and now this dying criminal hurled at the guiltless One.

His words were full of faith...

His words were full of faith as he admitted his wickedness and exalted Christ's righteous. He made no demands, for he knew he deserved death. Instead he made a humble request to the bloody, battered, King. "Jesus, remember me..."

That very day, he was with God in Paradise.

FROM THE EDITOR



As we prepare our hearts this month to remember and celebrate our Savior's death, burial, and resurrection, may we be captivated anew by God's love for us.

"...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.... For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."
(Romans 5:8 and 10)

Saved by grace,

Kimberly von Oeyen
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SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for the 2013 Equipping U Church Ministries Training Conference on October 19, at Ward Church in Northville, Michigan. Registration information coming soon!

PERMISSIONS

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