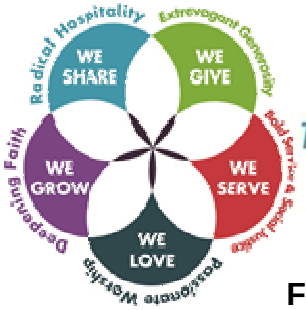
THOUGHTS & IDEAS



Touching heaven, changing earth with head, heart and hands

March 16, 2014
Final Words: "Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise"
Pastor Mark
Scripture Lesson: Luke 23:32, 39-43

HEAD

1. Compare and contrast the two criminal's attitudes toward Jesus on the cross.

2. What did the criminal do – and more importantly, what did he not do – to gain access to paradise?

3. The Greek word for "paradise" refers to the king's garden. Discuss how gardens in the scriptures are related (Garden of Eden – Genesis 2:8-14, 3:1-24; Garden of Gethsemane – Matthew 26:36-39; garden where Jesus appears after resurrection – John 20:10-16).

HEART

1. Why could/would Jesus pause in the midst of tremendous agony and pain to extend mercy and grace to a criminal? What does that tell us about Jesus? What does it tell us about how we should be?

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

2. Like the criminals, there are varying attitudes toward Jesus/ God today. Name some of the different thoughts, beliefs, and perceptions our society has toward Jesus/God.

3. Do your views/attitudes toward Jesus ever change? Why?

4. What does “paradise” look like for you?

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NOTES

HANDS

1. How can we be more like Jesus and extend mercy and grace to those often persecuted by society?

2. How can we refrain from being judgmental of others based on their previous actions and choices?

3. How can we at LAUMC be more welcoming to others?