

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

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Luke 23:32-43

Death is real. It's a bitter reality and it seemingly gets the final word. *Seemingly.*

Having been publicly humiliated, tortured, and hung to die on a cross, death seemingly had the final word with Jesus. There was nothing left to do other than call in friends and family to say their final goodbyes.

Jesus' deathbed conversation, however, was one of life, not death. He spoke of forgiveness, of hope, of paradise.

The incredible paradox of the cross is that in Jesus' death, new life was birthed. The cross closed the chasm of separation that kept a sinful humanity from experiencing the One who is the Resurrection and the Life. In the cross of Christ, the criminal's sentence is shouldered by his Savior. Forgiveness and life trump all.

Forgiveness and life get the final word. It's true for the criminal on the cross, the adulterer caught in her sin, and you and me as well.

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