

Scripture Readings: Exodus 20:1-17 & Luke 23:32-45

Singing: 261:1-3 – 325:1-2 – 134:1-3 – 446:1-3 – 290:4-7

TWO PRAYERS AND TWO ANSWERS

I. One prayer remained unanswered II. One prayer is answered

I. THE FIRST PRAYER REMAINED UNANSWERED

A. There is much prayer offered that goes unanswered (Jonah 1:5)

B. What was wrong with the prayer of criminal A?

1. Not asked in true faith: *if thou be Christ*

2. Not asked for right motive: *save thyself and us*

3. Not asked in reverence: *never appropriately addressed Jesus as Lord/King*

C. Though not answered, he wasn't unaddressed by Jesus

1. He is called to repent from his terrible mind-set: *Do you not fear God?*

2. He is confronted with his terrible condition: *condemnation (Rom. 5:12, 18)*

3. He heard there was forgiveness for sinners like him (vs. 43)

II. THE SECOND PRAYER ANSWERED

A. His prayer and confession are fruit of God's drawing grace (John 6:44)

1. His work brings *the act of repentance and the act of faith*

a. repentance is to see all truth in a different light

b. repentance has three aspects to it

• intellectual (mind)

• emotional (feeling)

• volitional (will)

2. Spirit also makes us see the glory of Jesus (called *revelation*)

B. Though circumstances differ vastly, God's gracious work to save doesn't

1. Have you learned or are you learned to see *your real condition as he did?*

a. he wasn't mostly burdened with *going to hell*

b. he was most burdened with the *majesty of God*

2. Have you or are you become willing to *share his confession?*

3. Are you learning to pray to God as he did?

a. he came with *no rights*

b. yet he came with one plea: *Lord remember me!*

c. how did he dare to ask Jesus to remember him after such a life?

4. Are you casting yourself upon Him in faith as he did?

a. he confessed his faith in Jesus' future glory and power

b. he appealed to Him to act like the Savior King

C. If such exercises aren't unfamiliar, then Scripture has a joyful message for you

1. Jesus' answer (vs. 43) means much more than it says!

a. means: *I pardon you – you are forgiven – your record is wiped clean!*

b. means: *trust in My Word and rejoice I will give you*

CLOSING APPLICATION

A. All who are coming to Jesus as this man came have reason to rejoice like him!

B. None are cast away who come but many neglect to come till it is too late!