



## Personal Study Guide

# Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise

*March 8, 2020*

### Introduction

 Think about your interactions from the past 24 hours. Of the conversations you remember, how many different ways did you address people? How did what you knew of them shape those conversations?

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 What do you think those who know you best would say are your top priorities based on the things you discuss with them most often?

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 Read Luke 23:41-42. What did this thief's words indicate that he understood about Jesus?

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### 1. The Least Likely Suspect in the Least Likely Place (Luke 19:1-2; Luke 23:43)

 How have you noticed that you respond by default to people in less honorable professions? What occupations can you think of in our culture that would be equivalent to Zacchaeus' profession?

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 Application: Describe a time when you were surprised to learn that someone was a Christian. What was the most unexpected thing about their testimony? What did their testimony teach you about the breadth of God's reach?

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### 2. Recognizing the Need for Jesus (Luke 19:3-6)

 How would you describe the degree of importance our culture places on dignity and appearing to have it all together? What do you think Zacchaeus' experience would have been like if he shared the same perspective?

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 Application: What points of social expectation and cultural pressure are you willing to transgress in order to know Jesus more fully? What are some of those expectations and pressures that would seem to dampen one's ability to wholeheartedly follow Jesus?

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### 3. From Desperation to Salvation (Luke 19:7-10)

 What would you say the grumbling of the crowd revealed about their misunderstanding of Jesus' message?

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 Application: How has encountering Jesus impacted your life in the last year? If you are a Christian, how does that change affirm that He is alive and still working in you for His glory? If you are not yet a follower of Christ, how is He calling you to respond?

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### Conclusion

 If you are following Jesus, how would you describe your life before Him? What aspects of that life were key to acknowledging your need for Him? How has that awareness of your need for His grace changed since?

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 Think about the Christians that you consider yourself closest to. How familiar are you with their testimonies of coming to Christ? How have these impacted you personally?

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 How has your desire to have gospel conversations with others changed in the last year? Has it grown or cooled? How would you like for that desire to change this year? What next steps do you believe you should take this week in order to move in that direction?

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### Daily Readings

- Monday - James 1:27
- Tuesday - Galatians 6:10
- Wednesday - Deuteronomy 15:11
- Thursday - 1 John 3:17-18
- Friday - Matthew 25:31-40
- Saturday - Isaiah 58:6-7