

## Day 8, The Walk, "Broken and Given" ~ Regret



**What do you do with regret?**



*Three men hanging on crosses . . . enduring the cruelest punishment ever inflicted  
. . . two of them because of their crimes  
and the one in the middle because of His love.*

*Matthew writes,*

*"the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him." (27:44)*

*We have to wonder what was going through their minds . . . regret over their past choices? Maybe one momentary bad choice that turned into years of bad decisions. Were they thinking, "It wasn't supposed to end like this."?*

*One of the criminals hurled yet another insult,*

*Are you not the Christ?  
Save yourself and us!"  
(Luke 23:39)*

*Was he so broken in spirit by life . . .so  
incredibly hopeless that he could only  
lash out in anger?*

*Was he so lost in the pain of regret he  
couldn't see that so very close to him  
was the One who was the answer to all  
of his suffering?*

He looked away.

*Have you ever found yourself in such a  
deep pit of regret that you couldn't see  
any hope at all?*



*Have your failings and guilt caused you to look away from the One who loves you  
best and holds out mercy and grace?*



*Then the criminal on the other side of Jesus speaks,*

*"We are receiving the just reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." (Luke 23:41)*

*This man too must have been filled with pain and regret, but something had changed for him. Through all that he had seen and heard of Jesus during these hours on the cross, could it be that he came to know he was in the very presence of God?*

*We are relieved to hear his heartfelt plea as he turns toward Jesus,*

*"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (Luke 23:42)*

***Isn't that the cry of every one of us?***

Jesus, remember me.

*See Jesus on the cross . . . even in excruciating pain he listens to this broken man and He assures him that his greatest need has been met. His sins are forgiven . . .*

*“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43)*



## Prayer Response



*Think about the regrets that trouble you the most . . .*

*Let whatever broken object you have focused on during these days represent all of your regrets, all of your sin and brokenness.*

*Take some moments to focus on Jesus on the cross . . . for you.*

*Symbolically put your broken object along with all of your regrets, failings, burdens, and sin at the foot of His cross . . . and leave them there.*

*Pray as the broken thief on the cross prayed, Jesus remember me.*

Know that He remembers you.

Please take some time on this Good Friday to reflect more with any of all of these songs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUiwA1JNDig> “Forgiven” by Crowder

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pO2d0AD5wBg> “O Sacred Head Now Wounded,” sung by Fernando Orgtega

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=et84fahatP0> “Were You There?” sung by Lynda Randle



Paintings by Betty Sampsell Photography by Rachael Harascak