



How to Live Through a Bad Day – Be Assured

Warm-up

When you were growing up as a kid in school, what was the worst day of school that you can remember? What made it so bad?

The Word

Bad days happen to all of us. For some of us, our bad days have accumulated to become bad weeks, months, or maybe even years. As we face the challenges that life brings, we need to keep our focus on God in order to make it through.

Read Hebrews 12:1-2 How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus purposefully went through incredible challenges because of His love for you?

What are you going through right now that you need the strength and encouragement of Jesus, as well as close friends, to make it through?

When we face struggles in life, it is important that we know how to go through them with the assurance that we will make it through because of who Jesus is and what He did for us.

Read Luke 23:39-43 We are going to take the rest of our time together to learn how to put our trust in Christ in order to be assured of unending life.

The first thing we must realize is that we will all face God after death. **(Read Luke 23:40)**

The reason so many people treat God so casually is that, in the back of their mind, they think that death is final and that nothing will happen after they are dead. However, we must understand that death is not the end; it is just the beginning.

Read Hebrews 9:27 What do you think about this verse? How should this verse impact how we embrace Jesus?

Not only did the criminal understand he was going to face God after his death, but he also recognized that he had sinned against God. **(Read Luke 23:41)**

Read 1 John 1:9 This verse means that if we do our part in confessing our sins, then God will do His part and forgive us. It is through His forgiveness that we can have everlasting life.

The reason the criminal was able to trust that Jesus could save him was because the criminal knew that Jesus was more than just a man. **(Luke 23:41)**

Notice that verse 41 says, *“this man hasn’t done anything wrong...”* It doesn’t say anything about Jesus not doing as much bad stuff as the criminal, but that Jesus has done nothing wrong.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 In order to be assured of our salvation, we must recognize that Jesus is more than just a good man. We must trust that Jesus was without sin.

Finally, the criminal was able to be assured of his place in Heaven because he knew that it was only through grace that he could be saved. **(Read Luke 23:42)**

Two simple words that reflected the criminal’s heart towards Jesus assured him of eternal life. We can also be assured of eternal life by placing our trust in Jesus. **(Read Acts 16:31)**

Our assurance is not in our works, but in our trust that what God says in His Word is true. Just like Jesus told the criminal (Luke 23:43) *“I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise,”* we can also be assured of our salvation when we put our trust in Jesus, based upon God’s Word.

Prayer

Ask God to help everyone in your group to see Jesus as their assurance for eternal life and to help each person remember that, by keeping our focus on Him, we can be sure we will make through whatever challenges life brings us.