



Read: Jesus offers redemption in the most tender words: “today you shall be with me...” Read [Luke 23:39-43](#) and consider the two men on either side of Jesus as he hangs there. Such different responses, such different destinies.

With the background of these two men and their responses, read Romans 5:6-8 quietly aloud. Consider your own response to Jesus as you read it again, looking for a word, phrase or verse that speaks specifically to you.

Think: Review the passage again and ponder the word or phrase that stands out to you. What do you see of God’s nature in this? What do you see about his heart for people? For you? Turn this word or phrase over and over in your mind—gently, like a fragile treasure.

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to impart God’s message for you from this passage. What is he inviting you to consider? To do? To know? Open your heart and ask him to write his love deeply within you.

Rest: Sit quietly with what you have heard or sensed or experienced. Let all other thoughts go, except the reality of God’s presence here and now, with you. Let him love you. If it helps, play worship music in the background. If your mind gets distracted, gently whisper “I receive your love” or “I love you, Lord.”

When the true meaning of the crucifixion dawns upon us, then the whole sordid, bloody, painful death shall make us tremble before its glory.

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