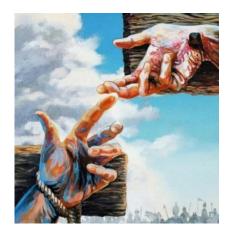
YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT!



"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:42 & 43

It's the gospel in a nutshell.

Come to Jesus with your need, your guilt, your broken heart and he will tell you in so many words,

"You're going to make it."

To the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair he said,

"Your sins are forgiven.... Your faith has saved you, go in peace!"

To the paralyzed man they lowered through the roof he said,

"Take heart, Son, your sins are forgiven."

While the religious nitpickers challenged Jesus in their hearts, he gave the man another boost,

"Rise, take up your pallet and go home."

No broken soul ever walked away from Jesus hanging their head in despair.

They all walked away with hope.

Am I going to make it?

Sometimes we're afraid that we're "not going to make it."

We're stuck.

"I'm in the same old rut. Nothing ever changes. Am I going to be stuck in this pit till I die?"

We're lost.

"I don't know where I am. My life is like a bad dream. Will I ever get out of this maze?"

We're depressed.

"Morning comes, and I can't face the day. I have nothing to live for. What's the point of going on?"

To every struggling, stumbling one of us, the Lord Jesus says,

"You're going to make it. Just follow me. I'll get you there!"

Make it to where?

"Come O blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Matthew 25:34

Evil mysteriously found its way into the Garden and messed things up.

Evil is still trying to lure us into the Eternal Darkness.

But here's the good news: At the exact moment necessary, God broke into this mess to deliver us from evil, to set us free from the power of the Lie.

He came with a single message:

"The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe the good news."

The Kingdom is here with an open door.

By the power of his resurrection Jesus lifts us into the realm of the World to Come.

Here on this troubled earth *it is possible* to enter a Kingdom where the will of God is done as it is in Heaven.

A world ruled by Truth instead of the Lie.

A world of unspeakable peace in the midst of all the chaos.

And this is only the beginning.

Soon God's Kingdom will be here in fullness.

It will be the Garden of Eden with no serpent, no evil, no curse.

A kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

How will I make it there?

You will make it to the world you were made for... ... if you <u>allow the Lord to be your Guide.</u>

Jesus will lift you into his Kingdom now, and prepare you for the glory which is soon to arrive.

"I am the light of the world; he/she who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (John 8:12) Mark 1:15

"<u>Follow me.</u>"

Jesus' *words* explain what we need to do. *Follow* those words. Believe them, obey them.

Jesus' *death* sets us free from the chains that have always kept us from doing what we need to do.

Follow him to the cross----his cross and yours. There you will learn how to die to yourself and *live to God*.

The Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead gives us the power to do God's will.

Follow the Risen Lord as he still brings good news to the poor, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed. Jesus will show you how to set the captives free.

When will I make it?

You will make it now and forever, if you take that first step into his Kingdom and just keep walking in the light he gives.

Very soon the New Jerusalem will shatter the darkness of this earth with unspeakable glory.

But the glory of God's Kingdom is *already here* for those who step by faith through the Kingdom Door.

We step through that Door not once, but every day, every hour, every second.

As we keep turning away from the Darkness ... and opening our spirits to the Light... We find strength to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:42 & 43

It's the gospel in a nutshell.

Keep looking to him,

Keep following him.

And you'll make it!

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