

# Grace Appeared

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*March 23    Read: Matthew 27:38-44    Karen Meinders*

The most amazing thing happened to me. I and two other guys had been sentenced to death for our crimes. As we walked painfully to our deaths a large mob followed one of the other prisoners. He wasn't familiar, and I wondered why people were following him. Some were shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Women were wailing, and the soldiers tried to push the mob back. I thought someone called him by the name 'Jesus', but it still wasn't clear why he was here. This Jesus guy was bleeding and had a large crown of thorns on his head. His clothes were torn; and someone was carrying his cross.

When we arrived at 'The Skull', we were nailed to crosses. The soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothing, and attached a sign to his cross that read, "This is the King of the Jews." It was at that moment that I knew this Jesus guy. It was only a few weeks ago I heard him teach about love, forgiveness, and grace. I know what I did was wrong; I deserve to be here. But Jesus, he shouldn't be here. He only did what was good. His life was one of example.

The third criminal began to make fun of Jesus, but I wanted no part of it. With tears in my eyes, I said, "Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." How can this be, that I deserve to be with Jesus? How can this be, that I have been forgiven? In those last moments, grace appeared. The most amazing thing happened to me.

***Prayer: Dear Jesus, Thank you for your forgiveness. Even though we don't deserve it, your grace is given to us daily. AMEN.***

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