

John 19:32

Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him.

Today is an aha moment when you read today's verse which says that "*Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him.*" Which means that they broke the legs of both of the men who were crucified with Jesus.

"Uh, that's a no duh." you may be thinking, which is true. But if you think about it, it goes much deeper than that, because if you will remember the conversation between Jesus and these two men, you may see what I am seeing. Let's read it in the Gospel of Luke.

† **Luke 23:39-43** *Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*

And what that tells us is that one became a Christian and the other did not, and by reading today's verse we read that both the Christian and non Christian's legs were broken.

But some people tend to think that when they become a Christian, that all these bad things are not going to happen to them, and if they do it must mean that they are in sin. Which if you read the bible, that is not always the case. In fact, it says that when we become believers that we will be persecuted for our faith in Jesus Christ.

† **John 15:20** *Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*

But it's not always the case of being persecuted for being a Christian, or not having to go through things now that you are a Christian, because even Jesus said, "*In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.*" **Matthew 5:45 (NLT2)**

Sometimes it's just what life throws at us, (*For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.*) and we see that example here in today's verse, because those who think that we as Christians will not have to go through the

same things the world does, will not accept what happened to both the Christian and non Christian as they both hung on the cross, and both died because of what they did (even though one went to heaven and the other went to hades), and that both had their legs broken. Life happens. But our hope is in two things, and they both involve Jesus.

The first hope is that Jesus is there with us. Jesus was with the man on the cross, and just seeing Jesus and knowing He was there, very likely helped this man endure the pain he was going through. ***“the first and of the other who was crucified with Him.”***

The second hope is being with Jesus in heaven. ***“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise”*** Even the Psalmist says:

† **Psalm 118:6** *The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?*

Eternity in heaven with Jesus and God and the Holy Spirit is what drives us and helps us to keep on keeping on towards heaven; whereas a non believer does not have that hope. So even though we will go through the same things in this world that the non believers does, we should use that as an opportunity to share Jesus with them. Sharing the hope that we have in Jesus.

† **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17** *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.*

If you read the one man’s words who gave his life to Jesus, I read it as he is being a witness to the other man about Jesus and Who Jesus is.

† *"Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."*

And he heard these words of a believer, and not only that, he also heard the words of Jesus to the man who believed when He said, ***“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”*** Which you would think would have caused him to want to repent and turn to Jesus as well. But we do not read of that happening.

So share with those non believers that are going through the same thing as you are, and share the hope that you have in Jesus Christ with them. Some will believe and some won’t. But you won’t know who will and who won’t until you share Jesus with them.

† **1 Corinthians 3:7** *So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.*

† **2 Timothy 1:8-9** *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.*