

**Sermon: The great Encounter**  
**17/03/2013**

**Date: MFM Tullamore & Portlaoise Sunday**

**Texts: Luke 23 vs. 33- 43**

In the passage we saw Our Lord Jesus Christ being crucified with 2 other thieves, they were both with Christ, one was busy insulting Christ and making jest at him while the other was pleading for mercy and asked Jesus to remember him when He gets to his kingdom and in Verse 43 Jesus answered him and said today you will meet me in paradise.

The Title of Today's message is **The great encounter**

Being in the church, been a worker or being a leader in the Church does not necessarily mean that you have encountered Jesus. Both thieves were with Jesus but the one who identified with the Kingdom of Christ and acknowledged Jesus as the only saviour was saved while the other was not.

**What is great encounter?**

- It means to come in contact with our Lord Jesus Christ
- It means to have a feel or touch of him
- It also means to be identified with him
- It means to acknowledged him as the only true God
- To have a life changing experience with the Lord

**Examples of people who encountered the Lord Almighty in the Bible**

- Moses in Exodus 3 vs. 1- 10, Moses had a divine encounter with God and his life was changed with a clearly defined assignment
- In Genesis 32 vs. 24- 28 Jacob had an encounter with God , his name was changed and he was blessed
- Mark 5 vs. 25- 34, the woman with the issue of blood for 12 years encountered Jesus and was made whole
- Luke 19 vs. 1- 10, Zacchaeus the tax collector encountered Jesus and salvation came into his house
- In Acts 2 vs. 1- 13, the Apostles encountered the Lord Almighty and they received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and began to witness

**When you encounter God certain things are bound to happened**

- Old things will pass away and your life will become new 2 Corinthians 5 vs. 17 If anyone is in Christ old things are passed away behold all things are new
- Fear will disappear from your life, (He has conquered fear by saying to us fear not 365 x in the Bible
- Infirmities, sicknesses and diseases will no longer have a hold on you for by his stripe you were healed Isaiah 53 vs. 5
- Jesus will always defend you when the enemies shall come Isaiah 59 vs. 19
- Your divine assignment becomes revealed and clearer
- You will begin to see visions clearly
- Hear God clearly
- You will hate sin and afraid to sin Psalm 119 vs. 11
- You will become a true witness
- Enter another rhyme of friendship with God
- Never tired of the presence of God
- Your spirit man becomes renewed daily
- You will no longer live as other live 1 John 2 vs., 15- 17
- You will begin to live a careful life because you will be afraid to lose the relationship with God<sup>4</sup>

The great encounter we are talking about takes place in the spirit rhyme and made manifest in the physical via the followings:

- Evidence of praying and speaking in tongues (In Acts of Apostles Chapter 2 from verse 1, when the Holy spirit came upon them, they were speaking in different tongues-----)
- Christ like attitude Acts 11vs. 26, 1 John 4 vs. 8 (God is love) and love is expressed in 1 Corinthians 13 vs. 4- 8
- Manifestation of the fruit of the spirit Galatians 5 vs. 22- 23
- Doing more exploit for God John 14 vs. 12 anyone who has faith in Jesus will do more than He did

**Things that hinders believers from having this great encounter**

- Sin Psalm 66 vs. 18 If I regard iniquities in my heart the Lord will not hear me
- Crowd (The woman with the Issue of blood, if you are in this assembly and still being carried away or tossed to and fro by the noise of the crowd you cannot encounter the master
- Ignorance
- Idolatry Exodus 20 vs. 4-6
- Lust of the world
- Worries Matthew 6 vs. 31
- Powers of darkness
- Household wickedness Matthew 10 vs. 36

Are you here today and wants to have this great encounter or you have lost your initial touch, all you need is now is a fresh touch.

Altar call:-----

Songs: Create in me a new heart Oh Lord and renew a right spirit within me

He touched me and make me whole

**PRAYER:**

- Lord Jesus touch me afresh with your power in Jesus name
- Powers pulling me away from master Jesus be exposed and die in Jesus name
- My father! My father!! My father!!! Touch my foundation and make me a new person in Jesus name