

## The Criminal Enters Heaven

*(Luke 23: 32-43 Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise")*

*Picture of gates (to heaven!) up on the screen, with title "Heaven – Entrance". Security Guard should be dressed in dark trousers, white shirt, tie, V-neck navy blue jumper with strips on the shoulders (we made these out of a cut up blue and yellow tie), carrying a walkie-talkie (anything that looks like a black rectangle with a small aerial at the top, we used an adaptor for five scart sockets from the pound shop and cut off the lead). Criminal should look scruffy, unclean, and possibly bloodied – we put tears in a long sleeve t-shirt and put red paint down the sides of each tear and stained and burnt the top too).*

Security Guard: *(in to walkie-talkie) 1-4-9 reporting for duty. (puts walkie-talkie on belt/in pocket) What's new this week then? (picks up memos from table and starts reading out loud) Memo to all staff: wash your own mugs up or else!!! Well, that's nothing new! Memo: don't forget to put used paper in the recycling bin. Memo: New admissions policy. (groan, then sarcastic) That sounds thrilling! Maybe I'll get a cup of coffee and come back to that (puts memo down, turns around and bumps into scruffy looking criminal) AAH! Where did you come from? How did you get in?*

Criminal: *(pointing) I came through the gates...*

Security Guard: *You (emphasised, and pointing at him) came through the gates? Where was security? Oh! That's me! It's ok! I'm here! No harm done yet! Now, don't make a fuss, I'll just see you off the premises...(steering him in direction of door at back of stage)*

Criminal: *But I've only just got here!*

Security Guard: *I know! If I get you out again straight away hopefully nobody will notice that I let you slip in! (looking round to make sure no-one's watching)*

Criminal: *It's ok, I'm supposed to be here!*

Security Guard: *I don't think so! You don't look like a man of God to me!*

Criminal: *Oh...(looking crestfallen)*

Security Guard: *I don't mean to hurt your feelings, but you know the rules. Live your life obeying God, and get into heaven. Break the law and don't bother to sacrifice a lamb or two doves or two pigeons, and you are barred from entering heaven. Now which one of those lifestyles best describes you?*

Criminal: *Law breaker...*

Security Guard: *Exactly! So off you go!*

Criminal: *It's just that Jesus said...*

Security Guard: *I'm sorry, who?*

Criminal: Jesus...he's the Son of God..

Security Guard: I know who he is! When did he speak to you?!

Criminal: When we were crucified next to each other. So, like I was saying, I said "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom", and he said "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise", and then we both died, and I found myself here and...oh! There he is! Jesus! Cooee! (*waving, walks off to meet him*)

Security Guard: That was this weekend?! I read a memo about that! (*gasp!*) The memo! (*picks up discarded memo, reads out loud*) New admissions policy: from now on entrance to heaven is based only on one criteria – acknowledging Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour



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Memo: New admissions policy:

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