

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JUNE 23, 2021

LUKE 23:32-34

INTRODUCTION:

1. Seven times, Jesus spoke from the cross. Of those seven times, the first and last things Jesus said were prayers. (Matt. 26.46; Luke 23.34,46)
2. Chronologically, the first thing Jesus said from the cross was a prayer: *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do”* (Luke 23.34).

I. “FATHER FORGIVE THEM”

A. Forgiveness defined.

1. Why did Jesus pray for their forgiveness?
 - a) Jesus saw people as being lost and in need of saving. (Luke 19.10)
 - b) From what does humanity need saving? (1 John 3.4; 5.17)
 - c) How do you see the people in your life? (1 Cor. 9.19-23)
2. Forgiveness: Is there any greater gift?
 - a) Aphasis (imp.): Literally, to send away. Carries the idea of releasing from captivity.
 - b) How does God forgive? (Eph. 4.32; Heb. 10.17; Acts 3.19 w/Col. 2.14; Ps. 50.1,2)

B. Forgiveness deferred.

1. When was forgiveness offered? Did God forgive the Jews immediately? (Acts 2.38)
2. **ROMANS 10.3:** *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.”*
3. What are the conditions of forgiveness?
 - a) Jesus pleaded for their forgiveness before His death. But what are the conditions of forgiveness under the first covenant? (Heb. 9.15,22)
 - b) What are the conditions of forgiveness after His death? (Rom. 10.13,16)

II. “FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO”

A. **LUKE 23.34:** *“For they”* On who’s behalf is Jesus asking for forgiveness?

1. **MATTHEW 27.41:** *“Likewise the chief priests also mocking with the scribes and elders.”* (cf. Matt. 16.21; 20.18,19)
2. The very people who brutally abused Him and ultimately put Him to death were the ones for whom Jesus was pleading forgiveness. (Mark 3.2,6; Matt. 27.41-44)
3. It is easy to love those who love you. God loved, sacrificed, and forgave those who hated Him. (Rom. 5.6-11; Eph. 4.32)

B. **LUKE 23.34:** *“know not what they do.”*

1. Know (oida): To have a perfect and complete understanding. (John 13.7)
2. Consider the different kinds of sins that are committed.
 - a) Sins that are intentional. I know it is wrong. (Heb. 10.26)
 - b) Sin that are unintentional. I didn’t mean to do it. (Lev. 15.22)
 - c) Sins that are committed in ignorance. (Heb. 9.7)
3. There may have been a time when God was tolerant of ignorant sins, *“but now commands all men everywhere to repent”* (Acts 17.30; cf. Jonah 4.11)