



Luke 24:34

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

³⁴And Jesus said, “*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

Background

Last words are never trivial. In the final moments before Jesus’ death, Scripture records seven statements He made from the cross that help shape our understanding of His heart toward His mission and His people. This week Pastor David will start a new series on some of the final words of Jesus before His death beginning with Jesus’ compassionate cry for the very people responsible for His death. In this statement, we not only see the heart of Jesus on display, but we find a striking example of how each of us who follow Jesus can both receive and give forgiveness.

Service Notes

What is your biggest takeaway from today’s message?

in conclusion

WORDS FROM THE CROSS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- ▼ What stood out to you in this week’s message? What challenged you? What prompted questions? How can we pray for you?

Talk it Over

- ▼ What does Jesus’ statement “Father forgive them” reveal about His character, His relationship to the Father, and His heart toward humanity? Why do you believe this statement of Jesus from the cross has been preserved in Scripture? Why do we sometimes struggle believing God has truly forgiven us? What are some ways we still try to earn God’s forgiveness rather than receive His forgiveness?
- ▼ **Read Isaiah 53:1-8.** What aspects of this passage can be found in Jesus’ crucifixion? How does this passage help us understand Jesus’ explanation that “they know not what they do?” What kind of response should we have when we consider what Christ has done for us as described in Isaiah 53? How should this change the way we live practically?
- ▼ **Read Matthew 6:7-15 | Ephesians 4:32.** Why is the act of forgiving others a demonstration that we have truly understood what it means to be forgiven? What does it look like practically to forgive others in the same way Christ has forgiven us?

Live it Out

- ▼ Is there anything you need to confess to God right now that is keeping you from living your life from a place of forgiveness? Is there someone in your life right now who you need to forgive? What is a next step you can take in both of these areas?

