



March 6, 2022

*“Father, forgive them
for they know not
what they do”
Luke 23:34*

I. Facing “Them”

- A. Who is Christ asking to forgive?
- 1) **The Roman Government (vs. 32, 33, 34b, 36-38)**
 - 2) **The Jewish Leadership (vs. 35)**
 - 3) **The Criminals being executed beside him (vs. 39,40)**
 - 4) **All sinners throughout time**
- B. The universal need of all people

II. Forgiving “Them”

- A. Forgive = *aphiemi* = to cancel a debt that is owed – “Paid in full”
- B. Christ commands His Father to forgive (Imperative) repeatedly (Imperfect active)
- C. Sin causes a debt to God that ONLY Christ can pay
- 1) **The Roman Government/Soldiers (vs. 32, 33, 34b, 36-38)**
 - A. Soldiers divide his clothes (vs. 34b)
 - B. They “mocked him”: (make light – show disrespect)
 - 2) **The Jewish Leadership (vs. 35)**
 - A. Aroused the Romans to crucify Jesus by selecting Barabbas (Luke 23:25)
 - B. Therefore God’s judgement is coming to Jerusalem (vs. 28 – 31)
 - C. “Sneered at Jesus” by saying, (vs. 35) (Lit. lift up the nose)
 - 3) **The Criminals being executed beside him (vs. 39,40)**
 - A. “Insulted” Jesus by saying, (vs. 39) (blasphemo to dishonor with false statements)
 - B. Yet ONE states the truth (vs. 40)
 - 4) **All sinners throughout time**

III. Father of “Them”

- A. Jesus uses the term “Father” and made this into a prayer
- B. Jesus used this intimate term for God over 175 times.
- C. Even in these last hours Jesus calls on his relationship with God for strength

IV. Foreknowledge Toward “Them”

- A. For they **know not** what they do!
- B. Jesus knows that HE CAME TO FORGIVE – not to condemn the world (John 3:17)
- C. Jesus knows that THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD and had to happen (I Tim. 2:5)

V. Our Lenten Reflection

Memory Verse: Matt. 6:9 - 15

Challenge:

Can we receive forgiveness?

Can we forgive others? (Matt. 6:9 – 15)

Decide to be like Christ – and get serious about the process of forgiving others

What steps do you need to take now to begin that process?

What is holding you back from forgiving others?