

A PARDONING PLEA
The Power of Forgiveness
Luke 23:34

Let us learn from Jesus about forgiveness

I. CONSIDER THE MOB - “Them”

A. THEIR IDENTITY

1. The Sanhedrin who were turning on Jesus (20-23)
2. The soldiers who were torturing Jesus (33)
3. The spectators who were taunting Jesus (35)

B. THEIR IGNORANCE

1. The people did not know what they were doing
2. The Sanhedrin thought they were getting rid of an imposter
3. The soldiers were simply carrying out orders

C. THEIR RECKLESSNESS

1. Impulsive: In their rush to judgment they were careless and clueless!
2. Faulty by ...
 - a. Failing to examine the evidence
 - b. Ignoring the illegal trial process

D. THEIR CALLOUSNESS

1. Beating Christ (22:63-64)
2. Gambling for Christ’s garments (23:34b)
3. Mocking Christ’s power (23:35-37)

II. CONSIDER THE PRAYER - “Father, forgive”

A. THE REQUEST

1. Father: Christ affirms His unique relationship with God by this address
2. Forgive
 - a. Christ’s first thoughts were those of forgiveness (33-34)
 - b. Forgive: Release from guilt
 - c. Note: This is the only time in Scripture where Christ asked God to forgive anyone

B. THE OFFERER

1. Christ interceding for transgressors - Isaiah 53:12b
- They were punishing (33) but Jesus was praying! (34)
2. Christ practiced what He preached - see Luke 6:27-28
- 3 Here is love in action - see I Corinthians 13:4a,7
4. Jesus making propitiation for the sins of the people - Hebrews 2:17
5. God in Christ being merciful to the ignorant - Jonah 4:11

C. THE POINT

1. They were ignorant but not innocent
2. Therefore they needed God's forgiveness - See Acts 3:14-19

D. THE OUTCOME

1. The penitent thief was saved - Luke 23:43
2. The Centurion was saved - Matthew 27:54
3. Seven weeks later 3,000 were saved - Acts 2:37-41
4. Then thousands more were saved - Acts 4:4
5. And soon after that many priests were saved - Acts 6:7

III. CONSIDER OUR MANDATE - Colossians 1 & 3**A. BE FORGIVEN - Colossians 1:13-14**

1. God rescues (13)
2. Christ redeems (14)

B. BE FORGIVING - Colossians 3:12-13

1. Instruction: Forgiving each other (12-13a)
2. Illustration: Just as Christ forgave you (13b)
3. Insistence: So also you should do (13c)

CONCLUSION:

Have you accepted Christ's message of forgiveness?

Will you duplicate Christ's merciful forgiveness?