

The Path To Real & Lasting Forgiveness!

Palm Sunday

Sermon Series: Impressions, Pt. 6

March 29, 2015

Luke 23:34, *And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide His garments.*

Luke 23:26, *And as they led Him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷And there followed Him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for Him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?” 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.” ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you*

not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” ⁴³And He said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

What The Bible Says We Normally Do With Our Guilt:

- **We Try To BURY IT**
Proverbs 28:13, *Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper; but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*
- **We BLAME OTHERS**
Genesis 3:12, *The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”*
Proverbs 19:3, *When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the Lord.*
- **We BEAT OURSELVES UP**
Psalms 38:4, *For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me...*

What Does Jesus Want Us To Do With Our Guilt?

- **Just Admit It And ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY**
Proverbs 20:27, *The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all his innermost parts.*
Lamentations 3:40, *Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!*

- **Just OWN UP TO IT**

Psalms 51:3, *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.*

James 5:16, *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another; that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

- **Just ASK FOR FORGIVENESS**

1 John 1:9, *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Romans 3:23, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

What Will Jesus Do With My Guilt?

- **He Forgives INSTANTLY**

Isaiah 55:7, *let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him... for He will abundantly pardon.*

- **He Forgives COMPLETELY**

Colossians 2:13, *And you, who were dead in your trespasses... God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.*

- **He Forgives REPEATEDLY**

Hebrews 7:25, *Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

- **He Forgives FREELY**

Romans 8:1, *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

Psalms 32:1, *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

Take Home:

- Do real business with God this week about the sin in your life.
- Bring a guest with you to one of our 5 Easter Services.
- Plan now to be part of every week of our Home Run Living Spiritual Growth Campaign (5 weeks following Easter).