

# Words From the Cross

Seven sayings are recorded in the Gospels that Jesus said on the cross. Since next Sunday is Easter or Resurrection Sunday, let's examine what was written for us as Jesus was being crucified:

3 sayings come from the Gospel of Luke. 3 sayings come from the Gospel of John. 1 is repeated in Matthew & Mark.

Since asphyxia, or being unable to breathe, is a result of being crucified, it took great effort to speak. Jesus thought these things were essential to say and the Holy Spirit considered them essential to record for us to know and when we put them in order, they give us a message.

## **1. FORGIVENESS IS FOREMOST**

**Luke 23: 33.** *And when they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. 34. But Jesus was saying(imperfect tense-REPEATED ACTION), "**Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.**"*

A. Forgive Whom? Who is Jesus referring to? Who did not know what they were doing?

1. The Roman soldiers who scourge Him, stripped Him, put nails through his hands & feet & lifted Him up to die.
  - a. Can we forgive those who have harmed us physically?
  - b. When have others done too much to us to forgive?
  - c. Can we say we are putting to death the flesh & living by the Spirit if we still can't forgive those who harm us?
2. The people who are mocking Him to save Himself & hurling abuse at Him that He is a liar & a fraud.
  - a. Can we forgive those who have hurt our feelings? Those who've laughed at us and made thoughtless remarks?
  - b. When have others said too much for us to forgive? Have hurt our feelings too much for us to overlook?
  - c. Are we putting to death the flesh & living by the Spirit if we can't forgive those who hurt our feelings?
3. The Pharisees & Saducees & scribes who lied, bribed, deceived & plotted to bring Him to the cross?
  - a. Can we forgive those who have lied to us? Deceived us? Manipulated events that brought harm to others?
  - b. When have others lied to us too much to forgive? Deceived us too much to forgive? (NOT TRUST!! forgive)
  - c. Are we putting to death the flesh & living by the Spirit if we can't forgive those who have lied & deceived us?

B. **Gal. 5:24** *Now those who belong to Christ, Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

1. Since the FIRST THING Jesus did when His flesh was being crucified is FORGIVE, what is the FIRST THING we must do to truly crucify the flesh & its passions & desires? Forgive those who deserve it? Apologize? Who?
2. **Mark 11:26** *But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."*
3. Forgiveness looks BEHIND and we are not to live our lives looking back. (trust looks forward = different!!)

## **2. PARADISE IS PROMISED**

**Luke 29:39.** *And one of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" 40. But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41. "And we indeed justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42. And he was saying(imperfect tense!), "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" 43. And He said to him, "**Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.**"*

**Next week!**