

Forgive Us Our Debts

Sunday, Nov. 8th

32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

38 There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Back up a few days before:

Matthew 26:31-35 31 Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ 32 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

33 Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”

34 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”

35 But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will NEVER disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

Hours after Peter has sworn he would never deny Jesus.

- 1. He has already denied him twice, now we are going to read where he denies him a 3rd time.**

73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and

**said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away."
74 Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.**

Forgiveness is a funny thing??

- 1. Sometimes we ask for forgiveness because of our own guilt.**
- 2. Sometimes we ask because we think it will keep us from getting in trouble. (I have to forgive so I can be forgiven)**
- 3. When really we should be asking for forgiveness because we truly hurt another person.**

You will never be closer to God than when you forgive someone who doesn't deserve to be forgiven.

One definition of forgiveness is surrendering my right to hurt you for hurting me!

- 1. Is that possible?**
- 2. Is it truly possible to forgive?**

We started by reading the story of Peter (One of the Disciples) denying Jesus.

- 1. Not once, but 3 times!**
- 2. After swearing he would never do that just hours before.**

Which leads me to this question:

- 1. Have you ever done the wrong thing so many times that you thought hope for forgiveness was lost?**
- 2. Imagine what was running through Peter's mind.**
- 3. I just promised Jesus I would never betray him.**
- 4. I just swore that I would NEVER.**
- 5. Then just hours later he has done it 3 times.**
- 6. This is one of Jesus's closest followers.**
- 7. Yet here he sits in this moment, wondering "Can I be Forgiven"?**
- 8. Have you ever been there?**
- 9. I believe all have!**

Here is where I am going with this today.

- 1. I don't know the circumstances in which you were hurt.**

2. I can't even begin to understand.

3. I just know that God forgave us and out of that forgiveness, he asked us to in the same way forgive others.