



Questions for further study - March 12th '17

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34

On the Sundays leading up to Easter and also on Good Friday, we'll be studying the 7 "sayings from the cross". These statements that Jesus made from the cross have been treasured by His followers through the centuries. They demonstrate both Jesus' humanity & his divinity. They also capture the last moments of all that Jesus went through to gain our forgiveness. "Because you say so, I will" is our theme for the year. We'll be looking at the how we can follow the example that Jesus set for us in these last moments of His life.

1. What's the first thing that comes out of your mouth when you're treated unjustly? Read Matthew 5:44. Jesus literally practiced what He preached.

Read Luke 23:32-38. Who was Jesus speaking about? What does He mean by saying "they do not know what they are doing"? What do you imagine was the effect on those who heard these words? (Some of the Jewish leaders may have been reminded of this ancient prophecy - Isaiah 53:12.)

2. Read Romans 5:6-8. What is your response to these verses? God loved us while we were still far from Him. (see also 1 John 4:10 & 19.) Think of someone who you know is really opposed to Jesus & the Christian faith. How does the fact of God's love for them inform our attitude to them? Matthew 5:44.

3. Jesus preached forgiveness right through His ministry. Look up the following passages & explore what Jesus taught & demonstrated about forgiveness. Matthew 6:12; Matthew 18:21-22; Matthew 26:27-28; Mark 2:1-12; John 8:1-11. What questions do you grapple with when it comes to forgiveness? Look up Colossians 3:13 & Ephesians 4:32.

This statement from the cross reflects the mind & heart of God from before time began. Read Ephesians 1:4-8. Pray through this passage and give God thanks that He "did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:17