

Sayings of Jesus on the Cross No 1.

Scriptures:

Luke 23 v 34 *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.*

Luke 23 v 43 *And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

John 19 v 26 & 27 *When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.*

Mark 15 v 34 *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" —which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

John 19 v 28 *After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"*

John 19 v 30 *When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit*

Luke 23 v 46 *Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.*

There were many defining moments in the life of Jesus; these can be identified as one reads the Gospels of the N.T.

His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension were all important events relating to Him and each has had a bearing on the world.

The one event we are gradually moving towards in the Christian Calendar is Easter during which time there is a remembrance of what Jesus did when He was crucified on a Cross.

The last seven things that Jesus said before he died are covered in the these Bible readings, every expression Jesus made whilst suffering pain was said with others in mind. As we go through these you will be able to see that even during His deepest moments of anguish Jesus was more concerned about others than he was for Himself.

We will consider the first of these saying, which is **Luke 23 v 34**: *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.* Let's look here at.

The Background to the verse.

It is necessary to look at the events immediately prior to the crucifixion in order to get a clear picture of the background to the actual text, we have to understand what happened in order to comprehend the importance of what Jesus said.

1. He was Betrayed.

One of His own disciples broke ranks and betrayed Him. There is nothing more demoralising than being betrayed and let down by one of your own who has broken rank. This betrayal resulted in His arrest, trail, and death on the cross.

The account of what happened to Him is easily comprehended if one reads the record of it in the first four books of the N.T. Matthew Mark Luke and John give explicit details of the things Jesus suffered at the hands of the soldiers' priests and people. It can be observed that.

2. He was Beat.

As He was being questioned about Himself, he was struck on the face whilst blindfolded and questioned as whom it was that was hitting Him. He was spit at, which is an extremely degrading experience listen to these verses from.

Matt 27 vs 17 to 31: *They took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.*

31 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.

28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

31 And after that they had mocked him. they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

Following this I am certain that as Isaiah 52 v 14 says "*His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness*".

This meant that because of Jesus being beat across the face; His cheeks would have become inflamed so much that He was beyond recognition. His eyes would have been puffed up. His lips would have been badly swollen. Then

1. He was Bruised

Isaiah 53 v 5: Says *“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed”*.

Jesus would have been without a mark upon Him when He was arrested, however following His apprehension in the garden, the marks of someone who had taken a severe beating were very evident. He experienced Physical, Verbal, and Religious abuse.

4. He was Blackguarded.

Jesus was treated as a low fellow; He was treated like the other two criminals who were eventually crucified at the same time. taunts were made about Him it was said by those at the cross He saved others let Him now save Himself, He never responded adversely to these jibs, He acted positively to what they said.

The sarcastic sneer (he saved others; let him save others, for himself he cannot save) is in Mr 15:31; Mt 27:42.

That is the Background to the verse of **Luke 23 v 34** where we read *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"*. *And they divided up his clothes by casting lots*.

It is obvious from what Jesus requests that the Priests, soldiers, and people were not aware of what was going on. It was this ignorance that was the cause of the enmity against Him.

We see next the beginning of the intercessory work of Jesus, whilst on the cross He begins His priestly work. During His life He had been God's representative before man, now He was beginning to be man's representative before God.

Jesus shows to us the forgiving spirit He had, this is why He could say to the disciples, forgive others as you have been forgiven. **Luke 6 v 37** says *“Forgive, and you will be forgiven”*.

By having such a forgiving spirit, Jesus illustrates to us that we are to follow the example set by Him and be prepared to forgive no matter how hurt we have been.

Jesus bore no malice against His accusers or persecutors; He held no grudge in His heart because of what they had done to Him.

It is difficult to conceive that after all the physical mental and verbal abuse Jesus could retain such a loving and forgiving spirit.

This teaches us a lot about forgiveness for we notice that the severity of His suffering did not inject anger or animosity in His own spirit against those who crucified Him.

If you hold onto an unforgiving spirit, it will affect you physically and you will gradually be eaten away inside. Bitterness will spoil your attitude and as a result you will hold on to the slightest misdemeanour done to you.

Be like Jesus. Be prepared to let go, and you will be blessed.

On the Cross he said *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are do.*

