

# FATHER FORGIVE THEM

## LUKE 23

Text: Luke 23:34

### **Luke 23:34**

<sup>34</sup> Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Introduction:

I haven't the vocabulary or ability to describe the scene before us this morning. Christ the King of kings, and yet the sorrowful Substitute for sinners, has been stripped naked. The mocking soldiers have unconsciously fulfilled the Scripture.

### **John 19:24**

<sup>24</sup> They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

He has been throw roughly to the ground; his legs and arms have been stretched out upon the wooded cross. Rough hands have grasps the cruel nails; and stern blows have been dealt, with the heavy hammer. Our Lord begins to feel the physical sufferings of the crucifixion.

He looks down to the faces of the men who have been putting him through all of this extreme and undeserved torture, and opens not His mouth to complain, but rather to breath this prayer, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

May we be reminded that the saying on the cross have a deeper meaning than that which appears upon the surface. These words were no common words.

There are two things that we will look at this morning though much more could be said and preached about, ‘the unknown depths of sin’ “They know not what they do;” and ‘the unknown height of mercy’ as seen and demonstrated in Christ dying plea: “Father forgive them,”

## **1. THE UNKNOWN DEPTHS OF SIN – “THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.”**

The Words spoken was not only spoken about the soldiers who violently drove the nails in our Saviour’s hands and feet, but for all who sin.

A. Who among us knows the full and real meaning and nature of sin.

1. Most have a understanding of what sin is, but do we consider how the exceeding sinfulness of sin.

- When you sin you call God a fool. You say that God's law is not the best thing for you, and you know what is best for you.
- When you sin you call God a liar. He tells us that sin is bitter and an evil thing, but you say "No it is sweet, it is pleasant; and at any rate I want to taste it."
- When you sin you call God a tyrant. You act as if His laws are hard and arbitrary.
- When you sin you take a blow at the crown of God. You refuse to let God be the King.
- When you sin you take a blow at the very existence of God.

B. Who among us know how much God really hates sin.

- In order to just get a glimpse of God's hatred for sin look at the cross and what took place there in our Saviour taking mine and your sin upon Himself to pay the debt thereof.

C. Who among us knows sins terrible consequences?

## **2. THE UNKNOWN HEIGHT OF MERCY - “FATHER FORGIVE THEM”**

A. Our Saviour prayed for those who nailed Him to the cross.

B. He also has prayed for you and I as well.

### **2 Peter 3:9**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Close:

May we see the height of our sin and the height of His mercy this morning.