**The Cross of Christ Reveals Forgiveness**

Mark 15:24–36 (NLT)

1. **Jesus forgave those who hurt Him.**
* Luke 23:34 **Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”** And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.
* Jesus, while in agony of pain, forgave those who inflicted this pain.
* We must forgive those who continue to hurt us.
* Jesus didn’t die with bitterness in His heart and neither should we.
1. **Jesus forgave the thief crucified beside Him.**
* Luke 23:39-43 One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!” 40 But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? 41 We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” 43 **And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”**
* The thief on the right repented and Jesus saved Him.
* The thief on the left hardened his heart, died, and went to hell.
* Jesus would rather save you than judge you, but the choice is yours.
1. **Jesus desires to forgive you, if you ask Him.**
* Luke 23:44-45 By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. 45 The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle.
* Jesus bore the sins of the world, on the Cross.
* Mark 15:33 At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. 34 **Then at three o’clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”**
* Jesus experienced the darkness of sin, so man could experience the Light of God.
* John 19:28–30 (NLT): **Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, “I am thirsty.”** 29 A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. 30 **When Jesus had tasted it, he said, “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.**
* Jesus became thirsty so your thirst could be satisfied.
* Luke 23:46 **Then Jesus shouted, “Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!”** And with those words he breathed his last. 47 When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, “Surely this man was innocent.”
* Have you experienced the forgiveness that the Cross of Christ reveals?