

*“...Father, forgive them;
for they know not what they do.”*

Luke 23:34

- I. Notice **from Whose** lips this petition came – “*Then Jesus said...*”
 - A. It is the same Lord Jesus who taught His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount to “...pray for those who spitefully use you, and persecute you;” Mt.5:44
 - B. It is this very same Lord Jesus, who taught His disciple to pray for their enemies, that we observe in our text praying for His enemies – “*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*”
 - C. As we consider **from whose** lips this petition in Lk.23:34 came, we see that it came from the Lord Jesus, who taught **by word** and **by example** to **love and pray** for your enemies.
 - D. Applications
- II. Notice **for What** the Lord Jesus petitioned His heavenly Father – “*Father, forgive them...*”
 - A. “*forgive*” - What does this word mean?
 1. The Greek word translated “*forgive*” in Lk.23:34, means “to send away, dismiss, pardon”. (release)
 2. Consider the example given by the Lord Jesus in Matt.18:23-27
 - B. The natural man’s greatest and primary need, is for God to forgive all his/her sin debts to God
 1. **To release** the sinner from paying the eternal penalty for his/her sin (that is, their personal failure to render unto God what is owed Him – perfect obedience to God’s written law)
 2. **To release** the sinner from living under the dominion of sin
 3. **To release** the sinner from ever being faced with their sin debt again, Rom.8:1, 2
 - C. To be “*forgiven by God*” **is** for God to release you from the eternal penalty of your sin, release you from the dominating power of your sin, and to release you from the fear of ever being **judicially** faced with your sin debt again!
- III. Notice **for Whom** the Lord Jesus made this petition – “...*them, for they know not what they do.*”
 - A. The identity of those for whom the Lord Jesus made this petition
 1. Those identified by the pronoun “*them*”

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 - A. The identity of those for whom the Lord Jesus made this petition
 1. Those identified by the pronoun “*them*”

2. These are further identified by the phrase “...*they know not what they do.*”
 3. The identity of those individuals for whom the Lord Jesus prayed and asked God, the Father, to grant them forgiveness, are the elect of God who were so spiritually blinded at that time that they did not know they were crucifying the Messiah. They were standing by, aiding and approving His crucifixion.
- B. The fruitfulness of the Lord Jesus’ petition
1. The fact: “...*a great company of people...*” Lk.23:27
 2. The evidence of the Lord Jesus’ effectual intercession for these people
 - a. The salvation of the thief on the cross, Lk.23:39-43
 - b. The 3000 saved at Pentecost, Acts 2:41; those added daily to the church, Acts 2:47
 - c. The 5000 men (not counting women) that believed, Acts 4:4
 - d. The multitudes of men and women that were saved, Acts 5:14
 - e. A great company of the priests, Acts 6:7
- C. Applications
1. Let us learn that those for whom the Lord Jesus intercedes, will without failure be forgiven all their sins and be received into His family as His own dear children.
 2. Let us learn how willing and ready the Lord Jesus is to forgive sinners, even those who despitefully used Him and persecuted Him.
 3. Let us learn that no person’s spiritual state is so alarmingly dangerous, as that person who, with clear and correct head-knowledge of Christ’s person and redemptive work, willfully rejects the Savior that is freely offered in the gospel!

The 7 sayings of the Lord Jesus while hanging on the cross

1. “...*Father forgive them; for they know not what they do.*” Lk.23:34
2. “...*Assuredly, I say to you, Today you shall be with Me in Paradise.*” Lk.23:43
3. “...*’Woman behold your son!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’ And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.*” Jn.19:26b, 27
4. “...*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*” Mt.27:46; Mk.15:34
5. “...*I thirst!*” Jn.19:28
6. “...*It is finished...*” Jn.19:30
7. “...*Father, into Your hands, I commit My spirit.*” Lk.23:46

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