

HOLY WEEK: FORGIVENESS

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

— Luke 23:34

It makes sense to me that the first words Jesus speaks from the cross are words of forgiveness. Notice though, that Jesus’ prayer for forgiveness is for those who don’t even know what they are doing. “Forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

The cross represents forgiveness and freedom from sin and death. That forgiveness extends to me and to you as well.

The striking thing that this passage reveals about Jesus is that his forgiveness is an unconditional, free gift. That may be hard for many of us to understand. One of my favourite shows is the Big Bang Theory. On it, one of the characters despises gift-giving because receiving a gift necessarily comes with the obligation of giving a gift of equal value. The same is not true of salvation!

Forgiveness is *not* something that can be earned, it is something that is offered.

Jesus offers forgiveness. The question that remains is whether you accept that gift and live into the new identity that comes with being forgiven.

“Father, forgive them...”

Even in the midst of pain and suffering, Jesus had one thing on his mind: forgiveness.

Questions for Reflection

1. Do you have a hard time accepting that you are forgiven?
2. Jesus’ prayer says something about God, what do you think that is?
3. What is one concrete way you can live out your identity as forgiven today?

