



New Mt. Zion MBC
Hour of Power Noon Day Bible Study

"Loving Through the Forgiveness Process"
Luke 23:34

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."

Welcome once again to our Noon Day Bible Study, designed to feed you twice in one setting.....physically and spiritually. We've spent a good deal of time discussing (extensively) the concept of forgiveness, and while we have constantly stated that forgiveness is not always an easy thing to do (naturally), God's incentive of not forgiving us if we do not forgive others, has been key to our grasping the need to be better at our attempts at forgiving others. Today I want to share an interesting thought, in response to a question posed in our last session: "How Do We Love During the Process of Forgiving Others?" In an effort to answer this as best as we know how, let's drop in at Christianity's most significant event, JESUS AT CALVARY, in order to see if we might be able to find something that we can embrace and hold on to.

There are at least three significant points that can be made from the scripture that stands before us on today:

1. True Forgiveness Requires a Righteous Relationship With God....."Father"
 - a. Too often we are hindered in the act of forgiving because we fail to take our initial concerns to God, Himself.
 - b. That Right Relationship is centered on our love for God.

2. True Forgiveness Mandates that We Become the Mediator of the Offenses of Others....."Forgive Them"
 - a. If we do not ask God to forgive them, He may be inclined to get them.....
 - b. II Thessalonians 1:6 "Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;"
 - c. Job 42:8 "Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job."

3. True Forgiveness is an Act of Appreciation of What You Know is the Reality of this Situation....."For they know not what they do".....
 - a. When we really consider the growth we experience through our personal trials and offenses, we should glory in the development of the understanding of God's methodology"
 - b. Matthew 28:18 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

- c. II Corinthians 12:7-10 "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

And so, we pray as we leave today's session, that more than ever we now realize the importance of forgiveness, as well as the necessity to increase our love to God during the process of forgiveness.