

Reflecting Jesus - Forgiveness

Scripture:

Luke 23:26-43

Also: Colossians 3:13, 15; Mark 11:25; Matthew 18:21-22

Discussion Questions

What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scripture passages?

1. Different groupings of people were listed in the sermon that Jesus forgave as he was being crucified (people doing their job, the self-righteous, the desperate, the mocking/scoffing crowd). **What do you think those different groups help illustrate? Does it matter what type of person needs forgiveness? Are some types harder than others?**
2. **Are we supposed to wait to forgive until the offender asks for forgiveness? Why or why not?**
3. Often, it is much easier to be on the receiving end of forgiveness. Let's be honest - extending forgiveness is really hard. When someone has offended us or sinned against us, it is can be so difficult to truly release them from our anger or our right to pay them back.
 - Jesus and God are no different. **Do you ever picture their forgiveness of us being an easy thing for them? Why or why not?**
4. **Why should we forgive people?** Four reasons were given in the sermon:
 - Because God has forgiven me
 - Because resentment doesn't work
 - Because I need forgiveness in the future
 - **What impacts you about those reasons?**
 - **Can you think of other reasons?**

Who do you need to forgive? If something has been holding you back, what do you need to do to address that obstacle to stepping forward into forgiveness?