

Last Words from the Cross: Forgiveness

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Luke 23:32-38

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Something was finished on the cross that marked a new beginning for us

To experience the joy of Easter we must walk through the sorrow of the cross.

*What is your experience with Lent?

*Why could it be helpful to take 40 days to prepare for Easter?

*How do you want to be fully present in the preparation this Lenten season?

Jesus's final words from the cross took agonizing effort

The things he said were intentional and have meaning for us today.

Read and discuss Luke 23:32-38(ESV)

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

*What do these verses tell us about God? About people?

*How do Jesus's words here resonate with you? How are these words good news for you?

The deeper our understanding for our need for forgiveness the more meaningfully we experience it

We treat Jesus as a means to our ends

We make worship about us and want it our way

We try to fit Jesus into our purposes

We run from our faith when it's uncomfortable or painful

Our sins put him on the cross

*When is a time you have meaningfully experienced forgiveness?

*Where are some of the places you see yourself in the examples above?

*How does recognizing your need for forgiveness help you show forgiveness to others?

*What is he saying to you about forgiveness?

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Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Untitled](#) by Sieger Koder

Song for reflection [I Have Made Mistakes](#) by The Oh Hellos