

The Final Word: Forgiveness

Luke 23:34

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing."

Look at the Lord who did precisely what he commanded. After so many things the godless Jews committed against him, repaying him evil for good, did he not say as he hung on the cross, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing"?

He prayed as man, and as God with the Father, he heard the prayer. Even now he prays in us, for us and is prayed to by us. He prays in us as our high priest. He prays for us as our head. He is prayed to by us as our God.

When he was praying as he hung on the cross, he could see and foresee. He could see all his enemies. He could foresee that many of them would become his friends. That is why he was interceding for them all.

They were raging, but he was praying. They were saying to Pilate "Crucify," but he was crying out, "Father, forgive." He was hanging from the cruel nails, but he did not lose his gentleness. He was asking for pardon for those from whom he was receiving such hideous treatment.

Augustine

Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament III, Luke, p. 361

We learn from the event of Jesus' prayer from the cross.

- Jesus prayed from the cross as our _____.

In him we see _____ carried to the _____.
By him our _____ were carried on his _____.

Through him our _____ with God
Because of him we become _____ to the Lord

1 Peter 2:9; Romans 12:1, 2

- Jesus prays for us as our _____.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

Jesus takes our _____, _____, and _____
directly to the Father.

As the body of Jesus, we speak through the lips of Jesus who is our head.

- Jesus is prayed to by us as _____.

He not only _____ prayer and is the _____ of
prayer but is also the _____ and _____ of
prayer.

Thus, we have this interesting phenomenon of _____.

As man, Jesus _____ his prayer for forgiveness.

As God, Jesus would _____ his prayer of forgiveness.

On the cross, Jesus could see and foresee.

Mark 15:39

Jesus could see his _____ standing all around him, but he could foresee that many of them would become his _____ in the days to come.

Jesus has given all mankind another chance.
He sees us as _____ of his creation, his plan, his nature placed in us.

But he sees more than _____, he sees _____ in the making.

_____ has forgiven _____; it is time for _____ to forgive
_____ and live _____.

**We can observe a definitive contrast in conduct
between Jesus and his antagonists.**

Jesus behaved _____ than _____ by his
accusers.

They _____, he _____.
They cried out, "_____!" He cried, "Father, _____
_____."

Jesus was true to his _____ of forgiveness.

Luke 6:27-28; 19:10; Matthew 9:13; John 3:17

Jesus forgives us.

He forgives us all, if only we would stop _____ him, and
start _____ him.

Mankind's _____ cries out "Crucify."
Jesus cries, "I forgive."

What do I do with this?

What happened that day at the foot of the cross?

Some enemies divided up Jesus' _____.

Some friends cared for Jesus' _____.

What will you do in _____ to Jesus' words, "I forgive
you?"