Forgiveness!!  
“An Example to Follow”  
Luke 23:34-45

Sermon Outline


1. Matthew 27:44 and Mark 15:32 - They were speaking abusively towards Christ trying to make Him out to be as worthless as they were. “such statements was regarded by the Jews of biblical times as being harmful and injurious to the nature of God.”[1] The purpose of these kinds of statements were intended to be inflammatory.
2. These statements were being repeated continuously and were directed to Christ.
   a) They mocked Christ by sarcastically stating that if He is Christ then He should have the power to deliver them.
3. The other robber responded to the insults and abusive words of the other robber on the cross.
   Everything stopped with this response.
4. The robber continuously found fault with what the other robber was saying.
5. The robber asked the other robber if he was not himself, continuously intimated by the power of Christ. Christ's power should lead him to back down from saying all the abusive things he was saying. This robber knew of the ministry of Christ before the cross and accepted it as real. It was not until then that he knew he needed Christ. How often is it that we wait until a crisis to reach out for Christ? The grace of Christ never holds this against us.
6. Once and for all, compared to Christ, they are continuously being paid back for what they have done.
7. Christ repeatedly practiced no wrong. Again, this robber knew of Christ before the cross.
8. The robber repeatedly spoke.
9. The robber commanded Christ to remember him. This robber demonstrated a conviction about who Christ is because he said 'when you come into Your kingdom.' He accepted Christ as King.
10. The robber expected Christ to be in a place where He was king. He viewed Christ as still being in control even though Christ is on the cross.


1. Christ breaks his silence and responds to the robber’s request. Jesus made a conscious decision to not remain silent because of the thief’s faith.
2. It did not matter if the thief ask for this at the last minute.
3. Christ said amen – ‘so be it’ or ‘let it be so’. The love of God directs everything.
   a) This dying thief confessed his sinfulness.
   b) The dying thief testified to the innocence of the Lord when he said. “this man has done nothing wrong.”
   c) “Lord, remember me” – He saw Jesus as a Savior – a great act of faith.
d) “When you come in Your kingdom” — He accepted Christ Kingship.
e) Christ blesses this man for his demonstration of faith. This faith is demonstrated when
Christ seem powerless and defeated. This is a tremendous act of faith. A faith that even
Christ disciples did not have.

4. Jesus kept saying the same thing as if He did not intend to stop.
5. It is the dwelling place of God where committed souls go after death. It is also considered to be
in the 3rd heavens based on 2 Corinthians 12:4 and can represent a park or enclosed garden.
6. Forgiveness takes us places that only God can provide.

C. Overcoming the Pain for a Pure Heart (Genesis 50:17-21):

1. Joseph wept with a very loud and strong outward emotion of grief.
2. Joseph with dynamic motion communicated with their servant.
3. Joseph will not harm them so there is no need for an emotional reverence.
4. Joseph could not judge them like he is God.
5. They wanted to skillfully with clever military precision hurt their brother.
6. They no inner desire to obey God’s standards.
7. God combattted their evil with purposeful military precision to do good.
8. God took their evil and made a pleasant, excellent life with economic benefits for
Joseph.
9. God saved Joseph so that His people enjoy security, protection and deliverance.
10. Because God intends this for good there was no need to fear.
11. Joseph’s compassion made them breathe out.
12. The way Joseph communicated let them know he did not hold a grudge.