

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF JESUS

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. "When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals- one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. " And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.
one of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. " Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise. "
It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

"The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. "But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. Luke 23

3. What would be most likely to make you proclaim publicly (like the centurion), in the presence of your friends, "Surely this was a righteous man"?

☐ a lot of scary signs, like those that happened that day

☐ feeling forgiven for all the bad things I've done ☐ seeing how badly my friends need Christ

☐ No way I'd ever say such a thing! ☐ I say it all the time already.

4. In the midst of such pain and ridicule, how could Jesus say, "Father, forgive them"? How do these words make you feel?

5. How easy is it for you to forgive people who hurt you?

6. When did you come to realize that Jesus died for you and for the forgiveness of your sins?

7. How does it make you feel when you think about what God has done for you through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross?

☐ guilty ☐ grateful ☐ interested ☐ uncomfortable ☐ relieved ☐ loved

☐ I've heard all of this before. ☐ doubtful

8. How would you describe the difference that Christ's death and God's forgiveness has made in the way you live your life? ☐ a little bit ☐ a whole lot

☐ not as much as it should ☐ a lot more than it used to ☐ I'm not sure.

9. Are you closer to Christ now than you were five years ago? If yes, in what way? If no, explain why.

10. If you could invite one person to join your group-someone who really needs Christ-who would you like to invite?

11. How can this group remember you in prayer this week?