

Father Forgive Them

When Satan's Last Arrow is Shot

"Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots." (Luke 23:34)

1. ***"Then Jesus said"*** – Man had done his worst.
 - a. No room in the inn. Herod tried to kill Him. The religious leaders tried to lay an ambush and discredit Him, crowds tried to push Him over a cliff.
 - b. **Then** – After false arrest, mock trial, beating and thorns the people still cried, "crucify Him" after leaders found no fault.
 - c. The nails were driven in, and the cross was now in place. Men could do no more.
 - d. For thirty-three years men had done to Jesus all they could do, and Jesus was still alive.
2. What would you do when everyone has done all they can, and you are still breathing?
 - a. Would you lash out, curse them then die?
 - b. "Father, forgive them."
 - c. Should we ever speak our mind? YES.
 1. Jesus told religious leaders off.
 2. He hated sin and loved the sinner (Hebrews 1:9).
 3. Jesus hated religion, loved the religious (2 Peter 2:1).

Jesus' First Statement Was Prayer

1. Prayer is Bigger Than Us.
 - a. It reaches beyond our voice.
 - b. It reaches beyond our hands.
 - c. It reaches beyond our boundaries of travel.
 - d. It is not bound by our presence.
 - e. It is not bound by time.
2. Jesus Reached His Physical Limits – Not His Spiritual.
 - a. His hands - were nailed and are now healed.
 - b. His feet – were nailed and once brought deliverance.
 - c. His time to live was short.
3. In His last hours, Jesus prayed for others.
 - a. Jesus prayed for sinners.
 - b. No one is beyond the reach of prayer (Isaiah 53:12, John 17:20).

1. Jesus prayed for you in John 17:20.
- c. In heaven Jesus still prays for sinners to be saved (Hebrews 7:25).
- d. Jesus practiced what He taught (Matthew 5:44).
- e. In the last minutes of life Stephen prayed (Acts 7:60).
4. Was Jesus' prayer "Forgive **them**" answered?
 - a. The soldiers who crucified Him (Matthew 27:54).
 - b. Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost began to fulfill John 17:20 (Acts 2:41).

Prayer and You

"Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day" (Luke 2:36-37).

1. Grandparents or others may have prayed for you.
2. In our old age, we often, sadly finally learn the power of prayer.
3. Jesus and prayer:
 - a. Jesus began His public ministry with prayer (Luke 3:21).
 - b. Used prayer power throughout His ministry.
 - c. Ended His public ministry on the cross with prayer.
4. Most mistakes in my ministry have not been a lack of preparation, but of prayer.