

## When Love Speaks: Seven Words from the Cross Part 1 "FATHER FORGIVE THEM"

Pastor Chuck Wysong  
Sunday, March 6, 2011

"Great crowds trailed along behind him, including many grief-stricken women. But Jesus turned and said to them, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves...' Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. Finally, they came to a place called The Skull. All three were crucified there—Jesus on the center cross, and the two criminals on either side. Then Jesus said, 'FATHER FORGIVE THEM, for they do not know what they are doing.' And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. As the crowd stood watching, the leaders laughed and scoffed at Jesus. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he really is God's Chosen One, the Messiah.' The soldiers mocked him, too, and offered him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!'" Luke 23:27-37 (NLT)

"Jesus said, 'Father, **forgive them**, for they do not know what they are doing.'" (NIV)

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PRAYER

- **JESUS FULFILLED PROPHECY**  
"...he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." Isaiah 53:12
- **JESUS REVEALED MAN'S GREATEST NEED**  
"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Matthew 26:28
- **JESUS MODELED FORGIVENESS AS A PRACTICE FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS**  
"While they were stoning him, Stephen ...fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.'" Acts 7:59a-60a

### WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE LIKE JESUS?

- **BECAUSE JESUS SAID TO**  
"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered,

'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" Matthew 18:21-22 (John 20:22,23)

- **BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN**

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

- **INSTANTLY**
- **COMPLETELY**
- **FREELY**

- **BECAUSE I NEED FORGIVENESS**

"**Forgive us** our debts, **as we also have forgiven our debtors...** For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:12-15

### HOW DO I FORGIVE LIKE JESUS?

1. **I NEED TO DECIDE TO FORGIVE**

"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him..." Mark 11:25a

2. **I PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE THAT HURT ME**

"I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Mathew 5:44

3. **I GIVE MY HURT TO GOD**

"When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." 1 Peter 2:23

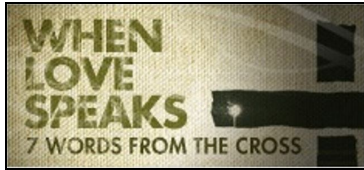
4. **I ASK GOD TO HELP ME**

"If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him." The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" Luke 17:4-5

5. **I THINK ABOUT HOW GOD FORGAVE ME**

"...he who has been forgiven little loves little." Luke 7:47

### HERE'S MY CHANCE!



March 6 <sup>th</sup>	“FATHER, FORGIVE THEM”
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	“ASH WEDNESDAY” @ Bayside West Church 7:00pm
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	“YOU WILL BE IN PARADISE”
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	“LOVE” Baptism to follow immediately after second service
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	“MY GOD, MY GOD WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	“I AM THIRSTY”
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	“IT IS FINISHED”
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	“INTO THY HANDS”
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER

## TIME WITH GOD

**Memory Verse:** “I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:44

### Monday

Read Matthew 18:21–35. Offenders in Jesus’ day were forgiven up to three times. Religious teachers of his day taught that a fourth offense didn’t need to be forgiven. With that in mind, how do you suppose Christ’s initial hearers responded to this teaching? How do you feel about this teaching?

- Jesus must be exaggerating
- If I did this, people would just walk all over me
- If I forgave, the offenders would win
- I feel confused: Does that mean I am to let people hurt me again and again?
- Other:

How can you forgive someone repeatedly and yet not encourage irresponsibility?

How does God forgive you yet not encourage irresponsibility?

*Thank God today for His forgiveness in your life. Ask God to help you forgive and not to bear grudges. Have a great day.*

### Tuesday

Look at the final points and verses of the outline under “How do I forgive? Which are hardest for you?

Which are easiest?

*Today, take some time to pray through the final steps in the message notes. Be very specific as it relates to people you need to forgive, perhaps a family member, or a friend or maybe even yourself.*

### Wednesday

Read Psalm 103:1–11. When trying to forgive, it’s helpful to see how much we’ve been forgiven. According to this passage, in what ways does the Lord show you kindness?

How does understanding this help you extend forgiveness to others?

Read Luke 7:36–50.

*Today spend some time in prayer modeling the woman who loved and worshipped Jesus for the way He loves you and has forgiven your sin.*

### Thursday

Read Hebrews 12:15. What kind of root does this verse refer to?

Have you ever had roots — or some invasive plant — in your yard get out of control and become destructive? What happened?

How have you seen bitterness act like a root in your life?

What are the effects of the root of bitterness?

If bitterness is so destructive, why do we sometimes nurture it?

How can a root of bitterness be “pulled up”?

*Thank God today that He is never bitter or grudge holding. Ask God to reveal to you any roots of bitterness in your soul. Ask Him to help pull them up.*

### Friday

Read Luke 23:27–37. Picture Jesus on the cross being surrounded by the soldiers and people yelling at him. Hear Him as he prays out loud, “Father, Forgive them for they do not know what they do.”

*Sit in silence today and reflect on how great our Savior is. Now go and practice forgiveness.*

HERE’S ME CHANCE!