

1.) FATHER, FORGIVE THEM

Famous Last Words Series

32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 33 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. (Luke 23:32-33)

Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing...’ (Luke 23:34)

I. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PRAYER

A. 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)

B. Jesus modeled the importance of prayer.

This...is how you should pray: ‘Our Father... (Matthew 6:9)

C. 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)

1. ...for they don’t know: ignorance does not equal innocence

But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins... (Matthew 9:6)

II. WHEN SOMEONE HURTS YOU, PRAY!

A. Pray for those who mistreat you or hurt you.

...bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (Luke 6:28)

1. My prayer for others may or may not change them, but it always changes me.

43 You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.... (Matthew 5:43-44)

B. Pray for restoration.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil... 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12:17-18)

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

III. WHY IS FORGIVING OTHERS SO IMPORTANT?

14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:14-15)

IV. ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT JESUS IS PRAYING FOR YOU!

Christ Jesus...who was raised to life-is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. (Romans 8:34)