

Father, Forgive Them
The Last Words of Jesus, part 1
Pastor Craig Ferguson

Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.'

Luke 23:34

(NLT)

How do we respond to Jesus' prayer?

1. Recognize our own ignorance

Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance.

Acts 3:17 (NLT)

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them. They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said, 'Rather than tearing it apart, let's throw dice for it.'

John

19:23-24 (NLT)

The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Ha! Look at you now!" they yelled at him. 'You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!'

Mark 15:29-30 (NLT)

For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:12 (NIV)

2. Strive to stop living in ignorance

But at this point the leading priests stirred up the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus... But the mob roared even louder, 'Crucify him!'

Mark 15:11 & 14 (NLT)

We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. *Colossians 1.10 (NLT)*

3. Live with Christ's wisdom

You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

Matthew

5:43-44 (NLT)

Then Peter came to him and asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 'No, not seven times,' Jesus replied, 'but seventy times seven!'

Matthew 18:21-22

(NLT)