

LAST WORDS: LET IT GO

Life Group Questions | Sunday, February 23, 2020

Read and reflect on Luke 23:26-49. Re-read Jesus' words, and pay special attention to verse 34.

Luke records Jesus' last words as he's hanging on the cross. With a total of seven phrases, Jesus begins with a prayer of forgiveness for his enemies: "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

When you imagine the context and consider the brutal circumstances, how does Jesus' statement hit you? What emotions arise when you read this story and phrase?

To forgive means to "let it go." Jesus reminds us that we forgive because our offenders don't know what they're doing. We keep in mind that we're not fully operating as God intends, and are still warring against the influence of sin and evil.

What's your natural impulse when someone hurts or wrongs you? Is your gut reaction to retaliate and get even? Or perhaps withdraw and self-protect? Does forgiveness come easily to you? Or is it difficult, maybe even painstaking?

Why do you forgive. What is your primary motivation and reasoning?

Discuss the following statements. Are they helpful? Challenging?

- We forgive because people don't know what they're doing
- We forgive because we follow Jesus
- We forgive because we have been forgiven

Close in prayer. As you pray, begin with 2 minutes of silent reflection. Envision in your mind, someone who has wronged you (past or present). As you picture them, adopt Jesus' mindset on the cross ("they don't know what they're doing), and ask the Spirit for his forgiveness.