

Sermon Topic: First of Seven Sayings by Rev David Ho, Good Friday, 19 April 2019

Verses for sermon - Luke 23:32-33

³²Two other men were also led out with Jesus to be killed. Both of them had broken the law. ³³The soldiers brought them to the place called The Skull. There they nailed Jesus to the cross. He hung between the two criminals. One was on his right and one was on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." The soldiers divided up his clothes by casting lots."

Impressive statements from Pastor David

"The world that he created, does not know him. The world that he came for, does not want him"

"He spent his life loving, serving the poor, the marginalised, the broken, but the world did not want him"

Maundy Thursday – He gave the mandate "You must love one another, as I love you"

- The very same night, that he got betrayed, got disowned, and got abandoned, got a wrongful trial, and a wrongful sentence. He was humiliated, abused, and nailed to the cross.

"He went there in silence, but at that time, Jesus begin to speak, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing", instead of lashing out in anger.

Some lessons that we can learn on ourselves from what Jesus went through (Lessons of this sermon)

1. Jesus began and ended his ministry with prayer

- a. Luke 3:21-22 (began), Luke 23:34 (end)
- b. Prayer is a relationship
Prayer, is not a duty that we must do, but it is an act of devotion. The significance lies in the relationship that Jesus has in the Father, a reflection of love and devotion we have for God. Similarly, for us in life, we have to journey together with our Father.
- c. When we can't do much, we can still do prayers!
 - i. Just as Jesus was when he was on the cross, he was unable to serve physically, but he could still pray. Likewise for us, whether health status or physical ability, we can always pray.
- d. Jesus intercedes for the enemies (that includes you and I) (Isaiah 53:12b). And God answered His prayers (Acts 3:17) – These people came to the Lord because of Jesus' intercession (John 17:20-21). The reason why we can be here to worship and praise God, is because of Jesus' intercession for us on the cross.

2. Jesus, Our Intercessor

- a. Jesus pleaded for the Father's forgiveness on our behalf. Jesus is able to pronounce forgiveness for his enemies (Matt 9:2, Luke 7:48).
- b. Yet at that moment, Jesus pleaded with the Father instead of pronouncing forgiveness upon the transgressors. He identify with us as man paying the price of our sins. In order for our sins to be forgiven, to be taken hold, there are two things: We have offended God the creator of heaven and earth, in a way we can never pay with our lives even if we die, because we are all sinners. Therefore, we need someone of the same stature to pay the price on our behalf, someone who is pure and sinless. (1 Tim 2:5-6) (Roman 8:34)-Jesus not only interceded for us while hanging on the cross, but continues to intercedes for us and many to come in the future.

3. Ignorance is NOT Innocence

- a. Sin is still sin when it comes to God's Holiness. When Jesus prayed for us on the cross, we still need to be forgiven even though we are ignorant. Any sin, even the original sin, is still sin. Even though we are ignorant, we are still sinners, hence never innocent. (Leviticus 5:15)-OT show that even though you sin unintentionally, even though you don't even know that you have sinned, there still has to be a price that you need to pay. (Ps 19:12-13) That's why Jesus said "Father forgive them for they do not know what they were doing", for we have sins that we may be unaware of.

4. Ignorance of the Enormity of our Sin

- a. Is it true that when they hang Jesus on the cross, that they were ignorant? The people who crucified Jesus wasn't ignorant of what they were doing, but they were ignorant of who they are doing the acts to, the King of Glory, The Savior who came to them, they were ignorant of the level of atrocity/severity of their crime. (Luke 23:20-21) (Isaiah 53:1-7)
- b. They "knew not" that it was the Lord of glory they were crucifying. Can the religious leaders of that time be said to be ignorant, considering they have read that passage in Isaiah? (John 1:3-5) The world could not understand why the King of glory have to walk the way of the cross. We do not know, we are ignorant, of who we have sent to the cross. (John 1:10-11)
- c. Are we ignorant, or ignoring? Don't ignore Jesus anymore.
- d. How about us?

5. Understanding Repentance and Forgiveness

- a. Repentance must precede forgiveness. (Sermon on the Mount) When people offend us, the word of God says we must still love them, bless them, do good to them, we must pray for them, in no way we must show any malice towards them. How about forgiveness? (Luke 3:3b-4)-There is a condition for forgiveness, it must be preceded by repentance. (1 John 1:9)
- b. Don't take God's love and grace for granted. (Heb 10:2-27)-If we continue in deliberate sin, there will be consequences.
- c. Repent and return!

6. Man's greatest and primary need!

- a. The issue of sin needs to be settled! The greatest and most primary need in all our life is the issue of sin, it must be dealt with. This is why God sent his son to die on the cross for you and I.
- b. We can select noble ideals, form good resolutions, adopt excellent rules to live by, and even develop a beautiful character but.. We cannot come to the Father with our good works. Nothing we do can reach the standard of Holiness the Father has for us, but Jesus can. The issue of Sin is settled, by Jesus going to the cross for us.
- c. Forgiveness on the basis of justice and mercy? Justice has to be paid. If God just forgive us with His mercy and love without justice, then God will be a permissive God. But he is not, he demands. But yet on the cross, His greatest mercy and love is displayed on the cross. The justice of God and the mercy of God is displayed on the cross. The Holiness and the Righteousness that He demanded, and yet the immense love of God to serve, is also fulfilled on the Cross.
- d. Yes, forgiveness of Sin may be obtained! (Luke 24:46-47) The message of repentance and forgiveness must be preached.

7. God's Greatest Display of His Love! (Luke 23:33-34)

- a. While the nails are piercing through his hands, all the things he went through, instead of cursing his enemies, he prayed for all of us. (Roman 5:6-8)

Jesus begins his ministry with prayers - Luke 3:21-22

²¹"When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened.

²²The Holy Spirit came down on him in the form of a dove. A voice came from heaven. It said, "You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you."

Jesus ends his ministry with prayers - Luke 23:34

³⁴Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing."

Jesus intercedes for the enemies – Isaiah 53:12b

^{12b}"For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Jesus intercedes for the enemies - Acts 3:17

¹⁷"My friends, I know you didn't realize what you were doing. Neither did your leaders."

Jesus intercedes for the enemies – John 17:20-21

²⁰"I do not pray only for them. I pray also for those who will believe in me because of their message. ²¹Father, I pray that all of them will be one, just as you are in me and I am in you. I want them also to be in us. Then the world will believe that you have sent me."

Jesus is able to pronounce forgiveness for his enemies - Matt 9:2 (to the paralytic)

²Some men brought to him a man who could not walk. He was lying on a mat. Jesus saw that they had faith. So he said to the man, "Don't lose hope, son. Your sins are forgiven."

Jesus is able to pronounce forgiveness for his enemies - Luke 7:48

⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." (to the woman who brought the jar of perfume to Jesus)

Jesus identify with us as man paying the price of our sins - 1 Tim 2:5-6

⁵There is only one God. And there is only one go-between for God and human beings. He is the man Christ Jesus.

⁶He gave himself to pay for the sins of everyone. That was a witness given by God at just the right time."

Jesus continues to intercede for you and I, and even for the future to come - Roman 8:34

³⁴"Who can sentence us to death? Christ Jesus is at the right hand of God and is also praying for us. He died. More than that, he was raised to life."

Sin is still sin when it comes to God's Holiness - Leviticus 5:15

¹⁵"Suppose a person sins by breaking the law. And he does it without meaning to. He sins against me or my priests by refusing to give them one of the holy things that are set apart for them.

"Then he must bring me a ram from the flock. It must not have any flaws. It must be worth the required amount of silver. It must be weighed out in keeping with the standard weights that are used in the sacred tent. It is a guilt offering. It will pay for his sin."

We can be unaware of our sins - Ps 19:12-13

¹²"Can I know my mistakes?

Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³Keep me also from the sins I want to commit.

May they not be my master.

Then I will be without blame.

I will not be guilty of any great sin against your law."

