



**Please, For God's  
Sake, Let it Go!**  
Luke 23:33-38

# Observations

- It's interesting to me that on the cross, Jesus actually prayed for the very men who were crucifying Him, at that moment
- He didn't wait for them to realize what a horrible mistake they were making (*They didn't realize that till Acts 2:37*)
- So, even in His darkest hour on earth, He was willing to release them from their wrongdoing
- Isn't it hard to work for someone when they are actively working against you? (*African Americans can testify!*)
- In doing this however, Jesus became the "perfect reflection" of God's unconditional love toward us; Romans 5:8; Hebrews 5:8,9
- Even in His most cruel moment He is teaching us, "*How to*"

# Observations

## **We See This Scenario Every Day**

- 1) Somebody hurts somebody (“the N word,” or jumps obviously in front of you for a parking space, rudeness, etc.)**
- 2) Tempers flare (your blood begins to boil)**
- 3) And before emotions are brought under control, anger erupts, and someone is badly hurt (emotionally or physically)**

## **The Big Challenge for Us Today is the Challenge to Forgive!**

**Much of the real battle takes place in our minds (disrespect)**

**There is an ability (Brain) to REPLAY the hurt again and again**

**Hasn't someone given you a impassioned story of their hurt that you thought happened last week, but it was 5 Years Ago?**

## Observations: Here is the Point

- **As long as we refuse to forgive those who have hurt us, we remain BOUND (locked down), with the anger and the resentment (scars) we feel**
- **Remember, that Jesus wants you and I to become like His example, “*EVEN ON THE CROSS!*”**
- **If our thoughts constantly replay past hurts, we cannot live like Jesus wants us to live**

# There Are Several Things to Consider When Mistreated, That Christ Modeled for You and Me:

- **When somebody walked out of your life (spouse, parent, friends, children)**
- **When somebody stole your money (family, children too)**
- **When someone borrowed from you and never paid you back**
- **When someone discriminated against you and cost you a promising career**
- **When someone disrespected you on purpose (knowingly)**

# #1 Letting Go is a Choice You Have

**On the Cross, Christ Made a Choice!**

**Could He Have Retaliated? Matthew 26:48-54**

***Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest Him.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.” Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested Him.***

***With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.”***

***“Put your sword back in its place.” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you not think I cannot call on my Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”***

**Could He have not prayed for them? Matthew 5:44**

**Church, we need to lay down, “The Right to Get Even!”**

**I’ve heard people say, “Well, I have a right to be mad; you don’t realize how they hurt me.”**

**Being Mad is Not the Same as Getting Even!**

***“Be ye angry, and sin not: Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.” Ephesians 4:26***

**Question: Where would you and I be if Jesus had come down from the cross?**

## #2 When It Comes to Forgiveness and Obedience to God, Prisoners Do Not Have Ordinary Rights!

*“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.*

*With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;*

*Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:1-3*

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:20, *“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God’s.”*



### #3 Allow God to Deal With the Person Who Has Hurt or Abused You!

- The correct procedure is to forgive the individual who hurt you, then turn them over to God
- We sometimes feel that if we don't avenge ourselves, the ones who hurt us will go unpunished (see Romans 12:19)
- God has His ways of dealing with users and abusers:

#### A. God handled Jacob, who swindled his brother's heritage

Jacob's 11 sons, with the same parental treachery of their father (lying), kidnapped and sold their brother Joseph, leaving Jacob agonizing for years thinking his son Joseph was dead

B. King David impregnated a man's wife and had the man executed. The *Sword of Disrespect* never left his house, 2 Sam 12:10. David's son, Amnon, disrespected David, committing incest and rape with his sister) 2 Samuel 13. Is Cosby free?

# God Deals With Users and Abusers

**C. Ananias and Sapphira lied about their church contribution to impress other Christians and the Apostles; Acts 5:1-10**

**They became the first recorded couple to die at a church service**

**D. Gehazi, Elisha's servant, lied about money and clothes that he had fraudulently received from Commander Naaman, who had been healed from "Leprosy." 2 Kings 5:21-27**

**Gehazi becomes the Leper that Naaman used to be**

**E. Judas gave Jesus "a dishonest kiss," by which he chose to identify Jesus to the Jewish army, resulting in His arrest**

**Judas, full of evil which mushroomed to guilt and remorse, commits suicide. Matthew 27:3-5**

# Some of the Abuse Many Have Suffered Has Been Uniquely Painful!

- Some of our abusers may have gone on with their lives
- Some may not know what we still deal with or even care  
(One father who was confronted by his daughter about his sexual abuse argued, *“Well it only happened one time!”*)
- One time with your own daughter has the potential of a lifetime of heartache if not for **GOD’S HEALING POWER!**
- Our world doesn’t have enough drugs (Xanax, Prozac, Psychiatrist, Psychologist) to numb some of our emotional pain forever
- Only Jesus can reach deep into a person’s soul and heal **Shattered Trust!** Mark 5:15 (the man that had been emotionally torn asunder, was found clothed and in his right mind, sitting at the feet of Jesus)

# **Forgiveness on Our Part is a Prerequisite to Forgiveness on God's Part (no entitlement here)**

**Remember Jesus and the Woman at the Well**

*“Whoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again; But whosoever drinketh of the water I shall give him shall never thirst;*

*but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water (a source of rejuvenation, satisfaction) springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:13-14*

*“But after my abuse, I will never be the same!”*

***You May Never Be the Same, But You Can Be Content!***

***1 Timothy 6:6-7***

# The Plan Of Salvation

<b>Hear the Gospel</b>	<b>Acts 15:7</b>
<b>Believe the Gospel</b>	<b>Acts 15:7</b>
<b>Repent of Sins</b>	<b>Acts 17:30</b>
<b>Confess Christ</b>	<b>Acts 8:37</b>
<b>Be Baptized</b>	<b>Acts 8:38</b>