

Luke 23:33 NIV “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.

34) Jesus said,” Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

More than likely the soldier that drove the nails in the hands and feet of Jesus still had the hammer in his hand when Jesus said these words. It’s possible that the men who vented their demonic aggression toward Him with their whips earlier, followed him to the place of the cross for the satanic thrill of final victory. Some scholars say that some in the jeering crowd, even some of those who only days before called Him the Son of God, spit at Him and gnashed their teeth against Him. Some, in their grief, hated Him for dying, and disappointing their hopes. The religious leaders, probably stood off to the side with smirks of prideful power, some possibly were already plotting their next juicy bit of learned wisdom to their inquiring student.

To everyone there, and to everyone in the future that would laugh at His life; laugh at who He was, and laugh at His gruesome death, Jesus said something that was utterly surprising and absolutely unthinkable. Jesus asked that His Father forgive them. **TO FORGIVE THEM!**

Of all of the words that the Son of God could have said, of all of the power He could have invoked toward those who had murder, rebellion ridicule and every other base emotion toward Him in their hearts- He only spoke words of compassionate forgiveness and astounding love. His heart broke for those who killed Him. Even then, in the midst of unimaginable pain and horrifying death, He could only see their desperate need as they wallowed in their sin.

After over twenty years of basking in that same kind of love toward me from my Lord, I still would have called down legions of angels to get those ungrateful, pompous bigots if I were Him. I would jump off of that cross and show everyone who’s really in charge. Why, I would...

Needing your mercy and forgiveness more than ever, Lord. Please change my heart and how I perceive others so that you can use me.

Jim Corbett