

The Gospel of Luke

The Seven Sayings of the Cross: Father Forgive Them

Luke 23:33-38

1. The Unfathomable Compassion of Jesus

While criminals often were crucified by being tied to the cross, the soldiers used nails to secure Jesus to the cross (Jn. 20:25; cf. Col. 2:14). As He is being secured to the cross and lifted up (cf. Jn. 3:15), He prays for the forgiveness of His tormentors and opponents.

A. A Petition for His Persecutors (Mt. 5:43-44; Acts 7:60)

B. A Plea for God's Patience (Lk. 13:8; 20:9-18; Rom 2:4; 9:22-23)

C. A Prayer for His Sheep (Jn. 10:14-18; Heb. 7:25)

2. The Relentless Abuse of Jesus

Jesus had already suffered the unending abuse of His adversaries for several hours, and their antagonism continued during the height of His torment and following His compassionate plea on their behalf.

A. The Abuse by the People (v.35a; cf. Mt. 27:39; Jn. 2:19)

B. The Abuse by the Rulers (v.35b; cf. Mt. 27:42)

C. The Abuse by the Soldiers (vs.36-37)

3. The Salvation of Many who Mocked Jesus

A. The People (Acts 2:41)

B. The Religious Elite (Acts 6:7; 9:1ff)

C. The Roman Soldiers (Mt. 27:54)