

Seven Words from Jesus on the Cross

#1. FORGIVENESS

March 20th, 2011

...Then Jesus said, 'FATHER FORGIVE THEM, for they do not know what they are doing.' ...

Luke 23:27-37

What we usually do with guilt:

- *We Bury It*

Psalm 32:3-5 When I refused to confess my sin, I was weak and miserable, and I groaned all day long...My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, 'I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.' And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone."

Proverbs 28:13 You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins.

- *We Blame Others*

Genesis 3:12 Yes,' Adam admitted, 'but it was the woman you gave me who brought me some, and I ate it.' (LB)

Proverbs 19:3 Some people ruin themselves by their own stupid actions and then blame the Lord. (GN)

- *We Beat Ourselves Up*

Psalm 38:4-6 My guilt has overwhelmed me; like a load it weighs me down... because I was foolish, I am bent over and bowed down; I am sad all day long. (NCV)

What Jesus wants us to do with our guilt...

...Admit It

Proverbs 20:27 The Lord gave us a mind and a conscience. We cannot hide from ourselves. (GN)

Lamentations 3:40 Let us examine our ways and test them...

...Accept Responsibility

Psalm 51:3 I recognize my faults. I am conscious of my sins...

James 5:16 Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. (LB)

...Ask for Forgiveness

1 John 1:9 If we freely admit that we have sinned, we find God utterly reliable... he forgives your sins and makes us thoroughly clean from all that is evil. (Ph)

Romans 3:23-24 All of us have sinned... yet God declares us 'not guilty' IF we trust in Jesus Christ, who in mercy freely takes away our sins. (LB)

What Jesus does with our guilt

FORGIVES Instantly!

Isaiah 55:7 God is merciful and quick to forgive. (GN)

FORGIVES Completely!

Colossians 2:13-14 He has forgiven ALL your sins. He has utterly wiped out the evidence of broken commandments which always hung over our heads, and has completely annulled it by nailing it to the cross! (Ph)

FORGIVES Repeatedly!

Hebrews 7:25 (Christ)... is always interceding on our behalf. (Ph)

FORGIVES Feely!

Ephesians 1:7 For by the sacrificial death of Christ we are SET FREE, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the GRACE of God! (GN)

Psalm 32:1-2 What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven!... What relief for those who...God has cleared their record! (LB)

Ephesians 1:7-8; Isaiah 1:18; Psalm 51:17;

Psalm 103:8-12; Psalm 86:4-7; Colossians 1:13-14