

Seven Last Words  
February 18, 2024  
Luke 23:32-34

**1<sup>st</sup> Word: Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**

- Jesus' heart of compassion: Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27-28; Luke 11:4

**Father –**

- Jesus and the Father - John 1:18; John 10:30; Matthew 6:9
- The holiness of the Father & the offense of sin. - Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 1:8-10; Romans 8:7

**Forgive –**

- Jesus knew the will of the Father – Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 103:8-12; Psalm 86:5; Hebrews 8:12
- What is forgiveness? Payment will be made for the penalty of our sin.

**“We are ever prone to regard sin lightly, to gloss over its hideousness, to make excuses for it.” – A.W. Pink**

**Them –**

- Jesus said: “Them” not “me”... – John 8:46
- Them who? - Criminals, Crowd, Rulers, Soldiers, Women, Me...

**They do not know what they are doing –**

- Sin, what sin?
  - Appeasement; Bribery; Cowardice; Injustice; Lying/Manipulation; Brutality; Mockery; Sadism; Terrorism; Deicide

**“Nine out of ten people I have to forgive don’t think they have done anything wrong to me.” – R.T. Kendall**

**Application:**

- **Father,** - Sin is ultimately and preeminently against God.
- **forgive** – Jesus knew the plan of the Father to forgive sin.
- **them,** - As he looked down from the cross, he saw our need for forgiveness.
- **for they do not know what they are doing.** – And we still don’t.

**The first word of the cross? Forgiveness.**