

Date: 15 April 2022

Speaker: Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

Topic: Forgiveness on the Cross

Text: Luke 23:24

1. This first of the seven statements Jesus made on the cross was on forgiveness (Luke 23:14). Forgiveness means to let go or release; so that the debtor would not have to pay his debts. In the world, people seek to obtain compensation when a person offends him. As Christians, we have a higher law to follow when someone offends us, which is 'charity' or to forgive. Jesus taught us not only to forgive but also forget (Matthew 18:21-22). This is only possible if we have God's love in us.
2. Who is forgiven? All those who wronged Jesus at that point of time. This includes the Jews (John 18:12-13; Matthew 26:57-68), the Romans (Mark 15:12-20), the thieves on the cross and others who transgressed God's law (Matthew 27:44; Luke 23:35-39).
3. Why did Jesus pray for their forgiveness? Some of them were not ignorant of what they did to Jesus. The Priests, Scribes and Pharisees especially knew that Jesus is the Messiah. However, their pride and covetousness caused them to suppress the truth and go against Jesus. Jesus prayed for them to show His willingness to forgive even though they were so hardened. In the case were ignorant like the soldiers who carried out the crucifixion, Jesus prayed for their forgiveness because they committed the sin of ignorance.

*Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will receive the forgiveness of sin*