

Date: 31 July 2022

Speaker: Preacher Kelvin Li

Topic: Can I Be Forgiven?

Text: Luke 23:32-43

1. All of us have a spiritual passbook that only God knows. Our repeated transactions are our sins and our end balance is death. In Luke 23, there were two malefactors who were about to be crucified for their evil deeds. We are similar to the two malefactors because we commit sin and the wages of sin is death. Like the malefactors, we have to decide whether we want our sins to be forgiven. Our decision will determine whether we end up in Hell or Heaven.
2. We cannot be forgiven if we have the wrong expectation of the Saviour (v39-41). The unforgiven malefactor ridiculed God and assumed that Jesus should come down and save Himself if He is God. He spoke as if God did not exist. Many others also thought that Jesus had to save Himself in order to save others. They do not understand that Jesus must go to the cross and die, in order that their sins can be forgiven. Similarly, many today do not truly understand God's love, holiness and justice. They will face the final judgment which is everlasting death.
3. We can be forgiven if we believe and commit our lives to the Saviour. (v42-43). The other malefactor, in his last few hours, confessed Jesus as his personal Lord and Saviour. He also believed that Jesus is the King and Judge of this world. Jesus then confirmed his salvation by telling him that he will surely enter the kingdom of Heaven. He will not need to pay any penalty for his sin and suffer in Hell first. He will straightaway go to Heaven and be with Jesus after he dies. Forgiveness is instantaneous and without a doubt. Those who believe in Jesus will be with Him eternally and see Him face to face.

*Repent from your sins and confess Jesus as your Lord.*