



## **Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions**

Topic: *Forgiving the Cruel*

Text: Matthew 27:22-26; 1 Peter 2:21-24

Service Date: February 23, 2025

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

### **Getting Started**

- Take a moment to read Matthew 27:22-26 and 1 Peter 2:21-24. From either the text or Sunday sermon, what things stuck out to you?
- In your own words, how would describe forgiveness?
- There are hundreds of times we must forgive others AND we, ourselves, must be forgiven. In your life experience, what roadblocks have you experienced when trying to offer forgiveness, either in the giving or accepting part?

### **Sermon Discussion**

- Paul addressed that when you are the victim of cruelty you should do these things:
  1. Escape if possible or appropriate.
  2. Do not retaliate.
  3. Pray for those who abused you.
  4. Forgive as quickly as possible.
  5. Trust in God's care even though He may seem distant.

Which of these do you find the most difficult to do?

- In moments when we have been wronged, how can we emulate Jesus and how He forgave those who put Him on the cross?
- Paul spoke of the abuse Jesus suffered, including disloyalty from His friends, rank injustice, and humiliation. He responded by doing nothing. Should that be our same response when faced with injustice? At what point, if any, should we address a wrong that has been done to us?

- How different would your life and relationship with Christ be if you removed all bitterness from your heart by forgiving those who have hurt you?
- What can the forgiveness we have received from God teach us about forgiving those who hurt us?
- Dr. Martin Luther King said, “Forgiveness does not mean ignoring what has been done or putting a false label on an evil act. It means, rather, that the evil act no longer remains as a barrier to the relationship. Forgiveness is a catalyst creating the atmosphere necessary for a fresh start or new beginning. It is the lifting of a burden or the cancelling of a debt.” What insight does this statement provide as you offer forgiveness to someone in your life?
- Consider the question with which Paul opened the sermon: Would you agree with this statement? “The most loving act God ever permitted was allowing His Son to die on the cross for our sins.”
- Sometimes, we can hold on to bitterness for years and find that it has only caused us distress, anger, and increased resentment the longer we hold on to it. If there has been someone in your life (even years ago), who mistreated you, what steps need to be taken in your life to resemble Jesus more? Is there a specific thing you need to pray for that God would provide as an answer so you can forgive?

### **Books Referenced in the Sermon**

*The Murder of Jesus* by John MacArthur

*Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom

*Grace from the Rubble* by Jeanne Bishop

*Forgiving What You Can't Forget* by Lysa TerKeurst

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### **Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?**

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is “Stories of Life Change”. Visit [tri-village.org/yourstory](http://tri-village.org/yourstory) and share how God worked.