

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

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"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"FORGIVE"

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment and cast lots." Luke 23:34

I am often amazed at the wonderful way Jesus teaches us to apply Christian principles in our lives by the examples He taught. *Genuine forgiveness* can be a difficult act to pull off. But as Christians, we are mandated to forgive others when they, in essence, *"part our raiment and cast lots"* just like they did to Jesus. There, Jesus was suffering unjustifiably and innocently for no sin of His own, but for our sins. What a debt we owe! Nevertheless, even in this situation, Jesus teaches us a profound lesson about why we should forgive others who have treated us unjustly and unfairly. In St. Matthew 18:21 and 22, Peter tried to help us by asking Jesus a question about forgiveness. Perhaps we would like to ask Him a similar question: ***"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?"*** Of course, Jesus didn't give Peter the answer he probably wanted, nor did he give him an answer which we may have liked. No! Jesus did not answer, "Well ten times is enough." That's something easy for us to do. Instead, St. Matthew 18:22 records, ***"Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven."*** Jesus is saying that we are required to continue forgiving those who sin against us. But in the verse above (St. Luke 23:34), our Lord and Savior helps us to develop an attitude of forgiveness by His example on the cross.

Why should we forgive? Well, when we realize that people don't really know what they're doing sometimes, it helps us to have mercy on them. It focuses our view away from ourselves and towards them. For example, unsaved people cannot understand spiritual truths. Babes in Christ, Christians who have not matured or who are not growing, often do not really understand spiritual truths. Our offenders truly are standing in the need of help. Understanding this truth has really helped me to forgive persons who have hurt and harmed me. I have understood that they need my prayers, not my revenge or hatred. They need my love, not my hate or wrath. They need my forgiveness, for they know not what they do. Furthermore, I need to forgive, for Jesus has taught me what I must do — even if someone is trying to destroy my very life.

How will you respond to today's message?



Dear Heavenly Father,

May I ever be mindful of the importance of forgiving others. I thank you from the depths of my heart for forgiving me and dying on the cross for my sins. Amen.