

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Bobby Rader /Opening Prayer by: Walden David

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#759 Shall We Gather at the River
#453 Love Lifted Me

Scripture Reading by: Cameron Cantu
#470 Victory in Jesus

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#517 Heaven Came Down

Sermon: "He is Coming Again"
John 14:1-3

#924 Just As I Am
#406 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Closing Prayer by: Daniel Balch

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#959 Just a Little Talk with Jesus
#412 Jesus Hold My Hand

Scripture Reading: Rock Cary
Prayer by: Don Taylor
#414 Anywhere with Jesus

Sermon: "Worship in Song: We Will Win"
1 Corinthians 15:57-58

#349 Ten Thousand Angels
#957 This World Is Not My Home

Closing Prayer by: Wayne Noonkester

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

May 6, 2018

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Father, Forgive Them

I want you to try to imagine what it might have been like in the city of Jerusalem on a fateful spring Friday. Picture yourself being brought under the spell and excitement of that hour. There were three prisoners about to be executed for their crimes. Two were revolutionaries convicted of plotting to overthrow the Roman government. The other was a young prophet who was viewed as a threat in his own right. The crowd on hand for all of this, with a love of the gruesome, just wanted a show.

On the way to the cross that day, Jesus had endured untold agony. He had experienced the mental anguish of an illegal trial on spurious charges. He had endured the mockery of a crown of thorns thrust rudely down into his scalp. He had been scourged, beaten with the Roman *flagellum*, a whip consisting of several leather thongs tipped with bone and metal. This procedure caused unbearable pain, ripping the flesh from the bone, and sometimes created a state of shock due to blood loss; many people did not even survive a scourging.

But Jesus survived and went to the cross, the most humiliating and excruciating method of capital punishment known in the ancient world. Can you visualize the tearing of the flesh as they drove the nails through his wrists and the spike through His feet? The agony as his mutilated back rubbed against the wooden cross every time he heaved himself up to struggle for breath?

Had we endured what Jesus endured that day, would the first words we uttered from the cross have been a prayer? Luke records that he did just that: *Father forgive them; for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34)*. In the most desperate hour of his life, Jesus prayed. That should not be surprising, because prayer was his habit, his lifestyle. Of course Jesus would pray now.

There are many who refuse to pray when everything is going well who suddenly become devout when a storm is brewing in life. Truthfully, we are all a bit like that sometimes. In our need and despair we cry "Lord, help me!"

Our Sick

Dana Wiggins is taking chemo treatments.

Phillip Cottle is in TIRR room 504.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, James Scott, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Gerald Lucy, Steve Ward, Teresa McKewen, Jackie David, Patricia Padon, Frank & Tina Garcia, Ronnie Davis, Bill Lunceford, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Stacie Copeland, Jo Ella McKewen, Leah Smith, Mark Wilcox

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Pat Henley, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, Joe Leonard

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Plastic Bags

The Food Bank is in need of plastic grocery bags. A barrel is in the foyer.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Deacons, Minister meet Monday, May 7th at 7:00 pm.

Primetimers are going to El Tiempo on Tuesday, May 8th at 4:30 pm. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Youth and Families Area-Wide Event

The Youth and Families will be traveling to the Memorial Church of Christ in northwest Houston on Sunday May 6th. This is a great opportunity for our young people to sing, worship, and share food and fellowship with other Christians in the Houston area. The bus will leave the FLC at 2:30 PM. Bring a friend!

Graduating Seniors

We need your bio's and photo for our senior booklet. Please turn them into the office by, Friday, May 18th.

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Ken Coleman	Daniel Balch	Bryant Perkins
Bob Parker	Danny Balch	
Bobby Rader	Shannon Smith	
Don Taylor	Phillip Strickhausen	
Robert Ward		

Communion Preparation: Jo Ella McKewen
 Nursery Attendants: Pat Hobbs
 Children's Bible Hour: Ashley Balch
 Teen Helpers: Brandon Smith, Tristan Strickhausen

Communion Preparation for Sunday, May . 13th: Jackie Meigs
 Nursery Attendants for Sunday, May. 13th: Lynette Ward, Debra Faneros
 Children's Bible Hour for Sunday, May 13th: Tania Balch

continued from front page

But that was not the nature of Jesus' prayer from the cross. He did not pray for deliverance. He did not pray that his friends and loved ones would be comforted. No - at that desperate time, in the midst of unthinkable suffering, Jesus prayed for his enemies! He put into practice what he had preached on a hillside in Galilee, what we call the "Sermon on the Mount." Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of those who had wronged him.

One of the great roadblocks to the power of the church is the lack of forgiveness among the people of God. We hold grudges. We nurse old hurts. We have malice in our hearts. Jesus taught and lived the opposite of that way of life.

In asking for forgiveness for them, Jesus was asking the best for his murderers. Forgiveness means far more than release from a penalty. An executive may pardon and refuse to exercise punishment. But God does not merely withhold a penalty – his forgiveness reconciles us to him.

Forgiveness is a restoral of fellowship. When God pardons us, He treats us as if we had never sinned. He forgets our ugly past. He walks with failures as if they had never failed.

Why is it that we – you and I – find forgiveness so hard? No one has treated us the way Jesus was treated. We have not been beaten, spit upon, or crowned with thorns. We have not been wronged in the way that He was wronged.

We need to emulate Jesus in forgiveness, just as we should in everything else. We need to remember his words in **Matthew 7:12**, *Whatever you wish others do to you, do also to them.* We all need forgiveness. If we would be forgiven, we must follow his example and forgive others. If Jesus, hanging on the cross, could pray, *Father forgive them, they know not what they do*, we should be able to forgive those who have wronged us too.

Bryant Perkins

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

is the weekly bulletin of the Liberty Church of Christ 3201 North Main, Liberty Texas 77575
 Office Phone Number (936) 336-2213; Fax (936) 334-8280;
 Minister's (Bryant Perkins) Cell Phone Number (903)407-5737