

Jesus, Friend of Sinners

Luke 23:32-43

1. At the cross of Christ is the offer of _____ . [32-38]

~ Forgiveness is what Jesus _____ . (cf. Matt 6:12; 18:22; Luke 17:4)

~ Forgiveness is what Jesus _____ . (cf. Mark 2:5; Luke 7:47-48; John 8:11)

~ Forgiveness is what the cross makes _____ .
(cf. Matt 26:27-28; Eph 1:7-8; Heb 9:22)



2. At the cross of Christ is the promise of _____ . [39-43]

~ Heaven is _____ . (cf. Matt 6:9, 19-20; 7:21; 8:11; John 14:2-3)

~ Heaven is _____ with Jesus.
(cf. Mark 16:19; Jn 14:3; Acts 7:55-56; Rom 8:34; Phil 3:20-21; Heb 1:3; 7:25; 9:24; Rev 5:11-12)

~ Heaven is _____ upon death.
(cf. Luke 16:22-23; 2 Cor 5:6-8; Phil 1:21-23; Heb 12:22-23; Rev 6:9-10)

~ Heaven is entered by **grace** through _____ . (cf. John 3:16; 5:24; 6:40; Luke 15:7, 10; Rom 5:1-2; 6:23; Gal 2:16; Eph 2:8-9; Heb 11:1; Titus 3:5-7)

***BECAUSE OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST,
FORGIVENESS IS FREE AND PARADISE IS PROMISED!***

For Group Discussion: **From the sermon “Jesus, Friend of Sinners”** (Luke 23:32-43)
Because of the cross of Christ, forgiveness is free and paradise is promised!

1. Opening questions:

~ If you had been standing near the cross and heard Jesus say, “Father, forgive them,” and then promise the thief, “Today you will be with Me in paradise,” what would have surprised you most about those words?

~ What do you think people today most hope God will give them—forgiveness for their past or hope for their future? Why do you think both matter so deeply?

2. When Jesus prayed, “*Father, forgive them*” (Luke 23:34), who was present around the cross? What does this reveal about the kind of people Jesus was willing to forgive?

3. Jesus extends forgiveness even while He is suffering injustice and cruelty. What does this moment teach us about the character and heart of Christ toward sinners?

4. The outline notes that forgiveness is something Jesus both taught and practiced. Why is it significant that Jesus lived out what He commanded others to do?

5. According to Scripture (Matt. 26:27-28; Eph. 1:7-8; Heb. 9:22), forgiveness is grounded in Christ’s sacrifice. Why is the cross necessary for our forgiveness rather than God simply overlooking sin?

6. Both criminals were near Jesus, yet only one received the promise of paradise. What differences do you see between their responses to Jesus (Luke 23:39-43)? What does this teach us about faith and repentance?

7. Jesus told the repentant criminal, “*Today you will be with Me in paradise.*” How does this statement help us understand that heaven is not just a place, but being with Jesus?

8. The criminal on the cross had no opportunity to perform good works, religious rituals, or make amends. What does his salvation teach us about entering heaven by grace through faith?

9. How does the truth, “*Because of the cross of Christ, forgiveness is free and paradise is promised*” give hope for people who feel unworthy, guilty, or far from God today?

10. In what ways can we reflect Jesus as a “Friend of Sinners” in how we treat people who feel far from God?