

INTRODUCTION

- * Last week we considered five different Portraits of Grace as Jesus was being handed over by the authorities to be crucified.
- * Today, we see the grace of God and love of Christ glowing brilliantly as He is hanging on the cross in the midst of a spiritual storm of disdain and hatred. Truly, the darker the night - the brighter the light!
- * Paul encouraged the Philippians to "Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life ..." (Phil 2:14-16). Jesus presented the perfect model for this as He demonstrated the wonderful forgiveness that God offers each individual through His grace. Yet, as we shall see, in the end this grace is ultimately only fully efficacious to those who believe!

INSTRUCTION

I. FORGIVING THE PEOPLE

A. Their G_____ - The M_____ of the Messiah

1. BY THE CROWD (cf. Luke 23:35; Mt 27:39; Mk 15:29-30)
2. BY THE ELDERS (cf. Luke 23:35; Mt 27:41-43; Mk 15:31)
3. BY THE SOLDIERS (cf. Luke 23:36)
4. BY THE THIEVES (cf. Luke 23:39; Mt 27:44; Mark 15:32)

B. Their R_____ - The C_____ of the Messiah (cf. Matthew 5:43-48)

1. RE: THEIR F_____
 - * cf. Matt 4:11; Matt 4:20,22
 - * cf. Luke 5:11; Luke 5:20-24; Luke 7:47-49; Luke 8:51; Luke 9:60; Luke 12:10; Luke 17:3-4; Luke 17:34-36; Luke 18:16; Luke 18:28-29
2. RE: THEIR I_____ (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:6-8; Acts 3:14-19)

II. FORGIVING THE THIEF

A. The R_____ of the Thief (cf. Romans 10:9-10)

1. A_____ (v. 40-41; Romans 3:10-11, 23)
2. B_____ (v. 42; Acts 16:31; cf. Isaiah 43:10-11; John 20:28)
3. C_____ (v. 42)

B. The P_____ of the Messiah

- * cf. 2 Corinthians 5:1-8; Philippians 1:21-23; 3:20-21; John 14:1-3; 17:24 ... cf. 2 Corinthians 6:2;

INTROSPECTION

- * Where will you go if you would die today?
- * Have you admitted that you are sinner and cannot save yourself? Have you believed on Christ alone as Your Savior? Have you publicly confessed your faith in Christ?
- * If you have received the forgiveness of Christ in your life, are you sharing it with others?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How can we best provoke one another to love and good works in this arena of loving and forgiving others?