

Luke 23:34 (NIV) — Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Have you ever prayed for someone who has wronged you deeply?

Many Christians understand forgiveness as simply letting go and saying, “I leave them to God.” We believe God will deal with those who have hurt us. While this is true and important, this alone does not reflect the fullness of Christian forgiveness.

Biblical forgiveness is twofold: it involves personally forgiving the offender and actively praying for God’s mercy on their behalf. This echoes Jesus’ own example on the cross.

Jesus forgave those who crucified Him—those who mocked, spat on, and beat Him. Despite His personal forgiveness, Jesus knew that the divine judgment for sin still remained. God’s righteous wrath against sin had

not been lifted simply by Jesus' words alone. So, Jesus petitioned the Father: not to condemn, but to forgive them fully (Luke 23:34). This teaches us that true forgiveness includes entrusting the ultimate justice to God, while also interceding for the offender.

When you face persecution or humiliation, do not only forgive in your heart. Pray to God for the one who wronged you, asking Him to extend grace and mercy to them. This aligns with Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount:

Matthew 5:43-44, 48 (NIV) — "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven... Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

True Christian perfection involves this radical love and forgiveness, modeled supremely by Christ Himself.

Furthermore, when you forgive and pray for your enemies, you participate in God's redemptive work. Forgiveness is not only a personal

release but also a spiritual act of reconciliation. It breaks the cycle of sin and invites God's transforming grace into the offender's life.

If you have been hurt or mistreated, start by forgiving those who wronged you. Then, follow Christ's example by praying for their forgiveness as well. This is how we become mature followers of Jesus—imitating His mercy, grace, and love.

Please share this message of true forgiveness with others. It is a powerful way to spread the Gospel and reflect the heart of Christ.

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