

FRIEND OF SINNERS – 6

Jesus Loves Murderers

Matthew 5:21-22 You have heard that it was said by those of old, 'You shall not murder.' But I say unto you if you are angry at your brother without a cause, you are guilty of judgment.

"I've never killed anyone, but I frequently get satisfaction out of obituary notices." – Clarence Darrow

- The greatest murder in human history: the killing of the _____ _____.

John 10:18 No one takes my life from me, I lay it down of myself.

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not murder.

Luke 23:32-38 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

1. The _____ of Jesus: *"they crucified Him"*(vs. 33)

- This is the most _____ act ever perpetrated by sinful hearts: the killing of the _____ Son of God

Matthew 17:22-23 ...The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men and they will kill him...

Acts 2:23 ...You have taken Christ by lawless hands and put him to death.

Matthew 12:14 The Pharisees went out and plotted against him, how they might destroy him.

"To bind a Roman citizen is a crime, to flog him is an abomination, to kill him is almost an act of murder: to crucify him is—what? There is no fitting word that can possibly describe so horrible a deed" —Cicero

- Even with the most _____ act of crucifixion, God brought the maximum amount of _____ out of it

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son...

Isaiah 53:10 For it pleased the Lord to bruise him, he has put him to grief...to make his soul an offering for sin.

Luke 23:33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Calvary comes from the Latin word *calvarium*
Greek *kranion*
Hebrew *Golgotha*
Means *a skull*

2. The _____ of Jesus: "***Father, forgive them***" (vs. 34)

"These seven last words from the cross are windows that enable us to...see the heart of the Savior and the heart of the gospel" —Warren Wiersbe

- His prayer was _____ scripture

Isaiah 53:12 He bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors...

- His prayer was consistent with His _____

Matthew 9:2 Man, your sins are forgiven. Be of good cheer.

- It's the greatest need of humanity to _____

3. The _____ of Jesus: *"for they do not know what they do"* (vs. 34)

- That doesn't mean they were _____ that they were sinning – ignorance doesn't mean _____.

Matthew 26:59-61; Mark 14:55-59; Luke 23:13-23; John 19:6

- The Roman soldiers performing this deed didn't know the _____ of Jesus

Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

- The rest of the crowd knew the reality of their crime, but not the _____ of their crime

1 Corinthians 2:8 Had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

- People who _____ Christ by and large don't know how enormous an offense that is

Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God has overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.

Luke 23:43 Today you will be with me in paradise.

Luke 23:47 Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Acts 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Acts 6:7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Final Thought: Jesus prayer wasn't a promise of instantaneous and _____ forgiveness...it anticipated that there would be people who understood the identity of Jesus and the enormity of this crime and would turn to Him to be forgiven