

**Words of Forgiveness**

Luke 23:1-25, 32-34 - Page 1641

**Prayer Concerns:**

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ for His \_\_\_\_\_

*“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you.” [Matthew 5:43-44 NLT]*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

*“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” [James 5:16b NLT]*

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_

*“There’s nothing wrong with God; the wrong is in you. Your wrongheaded lives caused the split between you and God. Your sins got between you so that he doesn’t hear.” [Isaiah 59:2 MSG]*

4. We’re to \_\_\_\_\_ as Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_

*“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” [Ephesians 4:32]*

5. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

*“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous and unrighteous, to bring you to God.” [1 Peter 3:18a]*

## Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

### Getting started:

1. Besides Jesus, whose death (family, friend, national figure) has affected you most? Why?

### Digging deeper:

#### Read Luke 23:1-34.

1. On Palm Sunday, Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem with shouts of praise. Now, just a few days later, many of the same people are screaming, "Crucify Him!" What do you think caused this change of heart?
2. Why did Jesus pray for His enemies? That may seem like a simple question, but take time to discuss it as a Growth Group. Do you think He struggled to offer this prayer?
3. In praying for those persecuting Him, Jesus clearly believed that no one is beyond the reach of prayer. Who, then, should we pray for? Our enemies? Those who live and act differently than us? Political and media figures?

4. Isaiah 59:2 is printed in the sermon outline. Read it and discuss why sin was so severe that it required Jesus to sacrifice His life.

5. We're to forgive as in Christ God has forgiven us [Eph. 4:32]. What does that mean? Are there exceptions? Are we required to forgive those who never say they're sorry?

6. Spend a few minutes praying as a Growth Group. Express to Jesus your adoration and gratitude for enduring the pain of the cross to bring us to God.

### Taking it Home:

1. Is there someone you're struggling to forgive? Pray and ask God for the strength to forgive as in Christ He has forgiven you.