

How To Face Trials Through Forgiveness

(Part 1)

“³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.’ ³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’ ³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: ‘Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!’” ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” ⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” ⁴⁸ When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.”

Trials of different kinds will pass in our lives and this we cannot avoid, but what we can avoid is to act in wrong way and take wrong decisions while we pass through trials. From the cross of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ we can learn how we face trials and manage our lives during difficult times.

Our Lord was arrested and passed through trials over the night; He was beaten, mocked, slapped and spat on His face, flogged, a crown of thorns was laid on His head, was forced to carry the heavy cross on His back and humiliated being considered as a criminals and crucified *along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.*

The question is how Jesus faced that situation? *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”* He forgave those who nailed Him on the cross and asked the Father to forgive them because they don’t know what they are doing. Unforgiveness, hatred and trying to revenge from the people who harm us will only makes life more difficult and troublesome and more burdens to carry. Forgiveness will lighten the burden that we carry in our lives.

As we can read after they crucified Jesus they even took his clothes and divided them between themselves but Jesus forgave them. In forgiveness we are giving away what was taken from us by force and against our will. But as we do that our pain and suffering will be reduce. When we forgive people what they have taken away from us by force what we are telling and doing is this: These things that are taken from us are important to us but we still can manage because God is present in our lives. People may have taken away from you your money, land, house, clothes, car, etc, but as you forgive them you are telling that I can still

manage because God is present in my life and I am looking forward to what I will be going to receive more and more from the Lord.

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2) Jesus He had to pass through the cross and there was no way to avoid it. The same for you it cannot be avoid it but you have to pass it successfully as Jesus pass through the cross. Our Lord as He was receiving the physical hurt He was looking forward to the place that is prepared for Him to be at the right hand of God the Father. As He forgave His enemies He was eligible to the place that was ahead of Him. *Therefore in forgiveness we are looking forward to the next station that God wants us to be.* If we don’t forgive then there is stagnation and no progress in our lives. People who fail to forgive they are not only in constant pain and suffering but they are in stagnation and no progress in their lives. They are stuck where they are with the ties of unforgiveness; revenge, hatred and bitterness

“⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:5-11) As Jesus humbled Himself and took the nature of a servant fully submitting Himself to the will of God the Father and was willing to forgive those whom He served and did well but they hurt him and did bad to him, God exalted Him to the highest place. *In forgiveness we receive lifting up and progress and got promoted.* As we forgive we are clearing our minds from traps and sideways wrong tracks that the devil tries to plunge us in. Therefore as we forgive we find ourselves on the high ways of God and progressing forward with the good plan of God in our lives.

My Dear and Beloved: “The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.’ There were many people under the cross who were speaking bad to Him, but He did not answer back anyone of them because there is no use for they don’t know what they were doing. But Jesus He knew what He was doing because He had taken the decision to forgive those people who were hurting Him. Forgiveness attitude free us from many unnecessary hurt and heartaches. You may hear during the day some bad comments, or see bad expressions, or receive wrong opinions and rejection but you should not react and harm yourself. As you are willing to forgive those who hurt you then your burden will be reduce and you will find yourself you don’t need to answer back many people and spoil your life and days, but instead your pain is reduced and you can look forward and see clearly what the Lord had in stored for you. In forgiveness there is blessing as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that teaches me to forgive and put away from my mind those who had hurt me. Lord forgives them for they don’t know what they are doing. Lord upholds me with your grace and leads me forward in your plan. This all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.