

# How To Face Trials Through Forgiveness

(Part 2)

<sup>32</sup> *Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.* <sup>33</sup> *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.* <sup>34</sup> *Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.* <sup>35</sup> *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.”* <sup>36</sup> *The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar* <sup>37</sup> *and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”* <sup>38</sup> *There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.* <sup>39</sup> *One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”* <sup>40</sup> *But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”* <sup>42</sup> *Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”* <sup>43</sup> *Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”* <sup>44</sup> *It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup> for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.* <sup>46</sup> *Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.* <sup>47</sup> *The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.”* <sup>48</sup> *When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.* <sup>49</sup> *But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.” (Luke 23:32-49)*

As we go to the cross of Jesus we will be able to learn lot of things that we can apply in our lives and that will make our lives easier and our burdens lighter. Jesus said to us the following: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.* <sup>29</sup> *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* <sup>30</sup> *For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)* Therefore as we come to Jesus and yoke ourselves with Him we will be going to learn from Him new things in our lives that make our lives easier and circumstances better manageable. And that will open our eyes, minds and ears to see, perceive and hear of new opportunities to receive more of God’s blessings.

We can read from the above chosen passage the following: <sup>35</sup> *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.”* The people that Jesus served were indifferent to the Lord and even the rulers they were sneering at Him. But what was the response of Jesus toward that? Did He answered back those people or try to defend Himself to them? No, He was silent, because no use to speak with those who had heard and seen many of Jesus miracles and His grace but still they act in such a way. The same here for you, when you pass through trials and people indifferent to your situation or they are speaking bad and negatively against you and some of them may even sneering at you, you don’t need to answer back or defend yourself, there is no use of that, you will just hurt yourself more. Allow God to defend you and defend His word. That what is written in the book of Isaiah about Jesus, *“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not*

*open his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7)* The same for you before you open your mouth think of what and with whom you are going to speak?

The Lord on the cross did not open His mouth and speak with those who were sneering at Him but He spoke with two persons they were in the crowd around the cross. Let us read that from the following passage: *“Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.* <sup>26</sup> *When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,”* <sup>27</sup> *and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.” (John 19:25-27)* Jesus’ mother was not yet deep in faith in Jesus’ mission; she was in constant fear about her son because of the threat of the Pharisees and their evil plans against Him. But here now Mary faced with the truth that Jesus crucified for the sins of the world to save the people. Here she is in need for someone who will guide her and care for her spiritually and the Lord saw there is opportunity now for His mother to be care spiritual by the beloved disciple. When Jesus saw His mother and the beloved disciple standing nearby He saw an opportunity for God’s service and to fulfill His responsibility toward His mother by putting her together with the beloved disciple who will be going to care for her spiritually. That what Jesus did was so effective because we can read later on in the book of Acts that Mary and Jesus’ brothers they were among the hundred twenty who were waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them as we can read here, <sup>43</sup> *When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.* <sup>14</sup> *They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.” (Acts 1:13-14)*

Jesus with the attitude of forgiveness in His heart toward those whom He served but they hurt Him was able to see new opportunity to fulfill His responsibility and to serve God. The same for you when you are willing to forgive and ignore the people bad comments and hurts then your eyes will be open by the Lord to see the new opportunities of the blessings that the Lord will open for you to serve Him and to do your responsibility faithfully.

Many people they are overwhelmed with unforgiveness and led by pain and hurt to revenge, retaliate and answer back those who harmed them. With such actions and attitude they will hurt themselves more, and at the same time they will miss and be blinded to see the new opportunities that the Lord would be opening for them to do their responsibilities, serve Him and be blessed.

*My Dear and Beloved: “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.* <sup>13</sup> *Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.* <sup>14</sup> *And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (Colossians 3:12-14)* As you watch your heart, mind, tongue and forgive, God spontaneously will open your eyes to see His blessing and grace in your life 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 I forgive the following peoples \_\_\_\_\_.* *Lord open my eyes to let me see what I need to do to fulfill my responsibilities and be blessed by you. This all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*