Saturday & Sunday – May 25 & 26, 2019

Forgiveness and the Empty Tomb

Luke 23:32-34 (NIV) *[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, they crucified him there, 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."*

If we are going to love like Jesus, how do we forgive like Jesus?

This is the heart of the Gospel....

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV) *[14] For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. [15] But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

How do we learn to forgive like Jesus?

1) Pray for those who HURT you.

Luke 6:28 (NLT) *Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.*

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

2) We are to FORGIVE as we have been FORGIVEN.

Colossians 3:13 (NIV) *Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

The world teaches "love those who love you and hate everyone who hates you." Jesus said, "No, we do that differently. We forgive as we have been forgiven and we pray for those who hurt us."

Additional Notes...

scriptures that relate

Monday: Luke 5	Wednesday: Matthew 6	Friday: Colossians 2
Tuesday: Matthew 5	Thursday: Matthew 7	Saturday: Colossians 3

small groups—talk it over

1. When you hear Jesus say, "Father forgive them" while on the cross, what is your response?
2. How have you handled being hurt by someone?
3. Who needs to get on the prayer list?
4. How do we learn how to forgive and let it go?
5. How would your life be better if you forgave someone that wronged you?

nikki's prayer requests

Monday: Pray for an awareness of God's leading as the team plans future weekend services.

Tuesday: Pray that our congregation will spend time with Jesus during the week.

Wednesday: Pray that we will imagine what is possible with God and His power.

Thursday: Pray for good health for our weekend volunteers.

Friday: Pray for a good day of rest.

Saturday: Pray that we will be aware of the Holy Spirit's presence during our worship services.