

Sermon Series: "The Darkness and the Dawn"—LOL, Westfield—3/26/2003

Title: "Forsaken, Forgotten, but Forgiven"

Text: Luke 23: 33-34 & Matt. 27: 45-46

Intro: *Ills.: Father, forgive*

Theme: Forgiveness gives us hope that we will never be forsaken or forgotten.

Forsakeness is our greatest fear

- Jesus was forsaken
 1. Forsaken by family and disciples
 2. Forsaken by fellow Jews to be crucified by stranger/gentiles
 3. Forsaken by the Father because Jesus bearing stain of sin
 1. Jesus refers to "God" not "Father" when asks why forsaken
 2. God who is holy (Psa 22: 3) cannot endure sin
 3. *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* 2 Cor 5: 21
- We often feel forsaken
 4. Often we are forsaken by those closest to us
 5. *"Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me."* Ps 27:10
 6. Because Jesus endured forsakeness from God, the Father, we don't have to
 7. *God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."* Heb.13:5

Forgotten but not without a heritage

- We all want to leave a heritage so that we won't be forgotten
 1. The soldiers, who crucified Jesus, are not remembered by the world
 2. Often our sin-filled lives end in a whimper to the end
 3. *"I came to hate everything for which I had worked so hard under the sun, because I will have to leave it to the person who replaces me. Who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish?"* Ecc 2: 18-19
- Jesus was given a lasting legacy by the Father which he now shares with us
 4. *"So I will give him a share among the mighty, and he will divide the prize with the strong, because he poured out his life in death and he was counted with sinners. He carried the sins of many."* Is. 53: 12
 5. Jesus, paid/remove debt/stain of sin, received again by Father and us as well
 6. *"So we can go confidently to the throne of God's kindness to receive mercy and find kindness, which will help us at the right time."* Heb 4: 16

Forgiven so that we will never be forsaken or forgotten

- Jesus forgave even the "worst of sins" so that we would never doubt God's presence
 1. If Jesus could forgive, without condition, his executors, he can forgive you
 2. *"But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life."* 1 Tim. 1:16
- Because of Jesus took our place, we can take courage even our loneliest times
 3. *"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in*

*our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.” 2
Cor. 4: 8-10*

Luke 23:33-34

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. ³⁴Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Matthew 27:45-46

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"