
“WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME”? Matthew 27:37-46

WHAT TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND

- 1) God is GOOD. Mark 10:18
- 2) God is FOR me. Romans 8:31-33
- 3) God is WITH me. Hebrews 13:5

Will I trust God with the “WHAT” in my life even if I don't know the “WHY”?

“FATHER FORGIVE THEM” Luke 23:34

The Before Christ Response: You owe ME! Matthew 5:38

The After Christ Response: God forgave me so I'll forgive you.
Matthew 6:12

The debtor can't always repay but the offended can always show Mercy. Matthew 18:24-27

What to do when the offense seems to Big?

Jesus' love is greater than any offense. Matthew 6:14-15

“IT IS FINISHED!” John 19:28-30

We all have unfinished business. Revelations 3:1-2

Identify your unfinished business: _____

Finishing Strong

Make a commitment. 2 Corinthians 8:11

Take the next step. Galatians 5:25; Psalms 119:105

What is your next step? _____

Food for thought

Talking through the message with someone during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

Read Matthew 27:37-46.

This passage of Scripture describes some of Jesus' final moments as He was crucified on the cross. As He was tortured and ridiculed while hanging on the cross, Jesus cries out to God, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Describe your current level of trust in God. What types of events or situations help you build your trust in God?

Why do you think it is so hard to trust God when we are in the midst of difficulties and so easy to trust Him when life is good?

Describe a time when you felt completely alone or abandoned by God. How did God ultimately show you that you were not alone?

We have all experienced tragedies and difficult situations that have caused us to ask the question, “Why, God?” What are some of the “why” questions you have asked?

Read Isaiah 55:8-9, Mark 10:18, Romans 8:31-33, and Proverbs 3:5-6.

These verses show us that God is good, God is for us, and God is with us when we endure times of difficulty we don't understand.

Read Luke 23:33-34.

This passage tells about Jesus being taken to die on the cross. One of Jesus' final actions was to ask God to forgive the very people who were killing him.

What has someone forgiven you of that you are most grateful for?

Before you knew Christ as your Savior, how did you treat others who wronged you? Do you treat them differently now?

Describe a time when another person hurt your feelings and you had a hard time forgiving them. How did that bitterness and resentment affect your life?

How has withholding forgiveness poisoned your relationships?

God is so willing to forgive us. Why are we sometimes unwilling to forgive others?

In what ways has God shown you mercy by forgiving your sins? How has that forgiveness impacted your life?

Read John 19:28-30 and Revelation 3:1-2.

In John 19:28-30, Jesus' final words were "It is finished", indicating He had completed the task God sent Him to do. Just like Jesus had a specific task during His life, each one of us has specific things God has called us to do in our lives.

What tasks or purposes do you feel God has called you to complete? What have you already completed for Him?

As long as we are still living, we can be sure God's work in us and through us is not yet complete. We all have unfinished business. What is the unfinished business in your life?

What is holding you back from completing your unfinished business?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:10-12, Galatians 5:22-26, Philippians 1:3-6 and Acts 20:22-24.

These passages give us the blueprint on how to finish strong and complete our unfinished business.

What do these passages say to you about finishing strong?

A lot of people start, but few finish. Why do you think it is so hard for most of us to stay the course?

What is one thing you can do right now to help you finish strong? How will you take that next step?

PRAYER TIPS:

Use these prayer tips to talk it over with God:

- In prayer, confess those areas of your life where you feel abandoned by God. Ask Him for His comfort.
- Commit to God in prayer that you will strive to grow your trust in Him, especially during tough times.
- Thank God for all the times He has shown His love to you during difficult circumstances. Praise Him.
- Pray for someone you know who's dealing with a tragedy or going through hard times. Ask God to comfort them.
- Thank God for the power of forgiveness that you have experienced in your own life.
- Ask God to remove any bitterness you have. Ask Him to give you a heart of forgiveness in its place.
- Pray for any people who have hurt you. Ask God to help you begin the process of forgiving them.
- Ask God to help you treat others with mercy and forgiveness. Ask Him to help you and guide you.
- Ask God to help you receive and understand His complete forgiveness.
- Ask God to reveal what your unfinished business is and how you can complete it.
- Commit to focusing on your task and finishing strong. Seek God's help and guidance as you identify your unfinished business.
- Ask God to show you what your next step should be as you complete the work God has called you to do.
- Ask God to remove the distractions in your life that are keeping you from taking your next step.