

“The Heart of the Cross”

Luke 23:33-38

- 1) What are the circumstances surrounding Jesus’ words in verse 34, i.e., what was happening to Jesus and what were those around Him doing?
- 2) How can it be said that Jesus is right where His Father wants Him to be? What is Jesus there for?
- 3) What is the significance of Jesus’ address to God as “Father,” that is, what does it reveal about Jesus, how does it influence the appeal Jesus will make, and what kind of Son has He been to this point?
- 4) What does Jesus’ appeal reveal about His heart toward His enemies and sinners?
- 5) How may it be said that “forgiveness of sins” is the “chief” and “best” mercy?
- 6) For whom does He pray? For what sin(s) does He seek their forgiveness?
- 7) How can Jesus’ prayer from the cross be an encouragement to those who despair of mercy because they think their sins are too great?
- 8) Why is the Cross the “most appropriate place” from which Jesus prays for the forgiveness of his enemies?
- 9) What argument does Jesus make on behalf of those crucifying him?
- 10) What was the “ignorance” of the Roman soldiers? the Jewish crowd? the religious leaders?
- 11) Does ignorance excuse sin? Why or why not?
- 12) Can ignorance itself be sinful? How?
- 13) How does Jesus’ appeal instruct us respecting those who are opposed to us? (see Matt. 5:44)

14) How can Jesus' plea for His enemies be an encouragement to us who have become His friends?

15) How are we able to receive the forgiveness of sins? What Bible texts support your answer?