“FATHER, FORGIVE THEM”

Luke 23:32–34

Key Verse: 23:34a

1. During his trial, what has already been concluded about Jesus? (4,15,16,22; see also verse 41)
2. How does Luke now describe his crucifixion? (32,33) What does it mean that these two men were “criminals”? What was the intention of putting Jesus in between them, and what is particularly evil about this? How was this a fulfilment of prophecy, and why is this important? (22:37; Isa53:12)
3. What did Jesus already know would happen, and how had he responded to it? (19:41–44) Now, at the moment he is being crucified, what does he do? (23:34a) What does he mean by “Father, forgive them”? By “…for they know not what they do”? Who else in the Bible did this? (Ac7:60) What does this prayer tell us about Jesus? (cf. Da9:9; Isa43:25)
4. How does his prayer to forgive coincide with his previous teachings? (6:27,28,35–37; 11:4; 17:3,4; cf. Mt18:35; Mk11:25) Review other places where the Bible teaches us to do this (1Pe2:21; Eph4:32; Col3:13; Jas5:15).
5. What can we learn here about how to be more engaged in forgiving prayer?