

## **The Prayers of Jesus**

***Thank you for being part of our Bible study series and a big thank you to all those who have led our studies. We reach the final study in our series with the prayers of Jesus from the Cross. At the time of going to print we are still not permitted to gather outside of Sunday worship so future Bible studies post-Easter may well continue in this style – partly Zoom – and partly through written study notes via email. We hope you will continue to be blessed as you interact with God’s Word in this way.***

### ***Prayers from the Cross***

**Background :-** There are seven very famous sayings Jesus made from the Cross. Three of these are commonly considered to be prayers. Of the four remaining, two are words for others (the other criminals and Mary and John), and two more are personal statements (“I thirst” and “It is finished”).

**Each of these statements are worthy of our best and deepest thought given the agonizing moments being faced by Jesus as He spoke. We will limit ourselves to the three prayers for the purposes of our study.**

**Scripture Readings – Luke ch.23 v 26 & 32-34, Matthew ch.27 v45-54, Psalm 22, Luke ch. 23 v 44-49, Psalm 31.**

**BEFORE WE GO FURTHER PLEASE FIND OR MAKE A SMALL CROSS AND HAVE IT HANDY FOR A CONCLUDING PRAYER AT THE END OF OUR STUDY.**

***Prayer 1.*** “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.” Luke ch. 23 v26 & 32-34

**Question 1.**For discussion or personal reflection :- Have you ever been present at the death of a loved one? Have you prayed or been prayed for during those moments? How would you describe the atmosphere and your feelings during those moments?

**Question 2.** Who do you think had Jesus in mind and in sight when He prayed this prayer of forgiveness?

**Question 3.** Why did they need forgiven?

***Prayer 2.*** “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” Matthew ch.27 v45-54

**Question1.**For discussion or personal reflection :- imagine a parent child relationship when something really bad has been done by the child, they have been caught and have been punished. How does the parent feel? How does the child feel? When answering these questions try to keep thinking about the relationship between the parent and child.

**Question 2. Jesus clearly borrows from Psalm 22, why do you think this might be?**

**Question 3. This seems to be the only prayer Jesus prayed where He doesn't address God as Father, why do you think that is?**

**Prayer 3. "Father, into Thy hands I commit my Spirit." Luke ch. 23 v 44-49**

**Question 1. This is not as silly as it appears, was it a certainty that Jesus was going to die as a result of the wounds received before and during the crucifixion?**

**Question 2. What would the reference to Psalm 31 mean to those then and we today as we hear it?**

**Question 3. John Calvin in his famous Institutes of Christian Religion states – "let us not hesitate, after Christ's example, to entrust our souls to God."**

**What was Jesus entrusting here to God – His death, or, something more?**

**Concluding Prayer**

**We welcome you Father , Son and Holy Spirit. Guide us in this time of prayer. (Hold your cross tightly in your hand),**

**As we hold Your Cross close we feel its sharp lines and angles and we are reminded of the pain you endured before, on the way and on the Cross – yet you prayed a prayer of forgiveness. Are there people or things we need to ask God’s help over in order that we might follow Christ’s example.**

**(open your hand/hands and look at the cross then close your hands obscuring it from view), On the cross the most wonderful relationship between Father and Son was ruptured, obscured, all because of us and for us. We know the cross is there but we cannot see it, take time to reflect upon areas and moments in our lives when we have felt far from our Heavenly Father and ask the Holy Spirit to bring peace.**

**(set the cross down, out of your hands), Jesus was able to commit everything to God His Father and ours, as we lay down our cross do we need God’ help to let something go, to entrust something to Him that is beyond our control or understanding?**

**Thank you loving Lord for hearing our prayers and those we might pray later. Lead us and direct us, and continue we pray the good work you have begun within us.**

**We pray all these things in Jesus name.**

**Amen**