

Thou Art Forgiven

Easter 2021 Series: Our Hope Renewed

Matthew 27:1-10

FORGIVING OURSELVES

Is it not true that we have (**Romans 3:23**) ALL sinned and fallen short of the glory of God?

Romans 6:1 *there is now no condemnation in Christ Jesus...*

Getting to the place where we are able to forgive ourselves is vitally important to our emotional, relational and spiritual health.

MATTHEW 27:1-5

Very early in the morning the leading priests and the elders met again to lay plans for putting Jesus to death. Then they bound him, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor. When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders. I have sinned, he declared, "for I have betrayed an innocent man. What do we care?" they retorted. That's your problem. Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself.

FORGIVING YOURSELF IS A PROCESS AND IT IS NOT SIMPLE

Lewis Smedes (author/theologian) wrote: *If forgiving ourselves comes easy, chances are we are only excusing ourselves, ducking blame, and not really forgiving ourselves at all.*

Psalm 51:17 *The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.*

BE CAREFUL TO NOT MAGNIFY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR SIN

Listen to what one remorseful man wrote in his diary: *I have done nothing. My life has been spent in vain and idle aspirations, and in ceaseless rejected prayers that something should be the result of my existence beneficial to my own species* (John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States in the later years of his life).

Often we don't see anything good in us...Negative Bias.

Ephesians 3:20 *Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*

BELIEVE IN AND RECEIVE JESUS AS YOUR EASTER!

What was Judas' greatest sin? It was his decision to NOT believe IN Jesus as the MESSIAH.

Zacchaeus: **Jesus said:** *Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost* (Luke 19:9-10).

The Woman Caught In Adultery (John 8:1-11): **Judas knew exactly what the law required:** DEATH BY STONING. But Jesus said: *I don't condemn you, go now and leave your life of sin* (John 8:11).

DO YOU BELIEVE?

The Prodigal Son: **Luke 15:22-24** *The father said to his servants, Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.*

The BIG question: **John 11:25-26** *Jesus told her, I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?*

LISTEN TO THE TRUTH

The purpose of our enemy: **John 10:10a** *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.*

The purpose of Jesus: **John 10:10b** *My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

WHO WE HANG OUT WITH IS CRITICAL! ISOLATION IS AN ENEMY TO OUR SOUL AND HEALTH.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 *Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

We need one another, we need Jesus, there is no other way!

LEARN TO LIVE AND WALK AS ONE FORGIVEN FOR THOU ART FORGIVEN!

- We need to forgive ourselves, it is a process, not always a fast process, but it can start today.
- Don't let your unhealthy need for perfection overinflate the significance of your sin.
- Believe and receive the TRUTH of Jesus that HE IS WILLING AND READY to forgive you.
- Receive the TRUTH that *Thou art forgiven!*

Thou Art Forgiven
