



## **THE WORD OF FORGIVENESS**

Famous Last Words – Part 1

Pastor Craig Coulter

*27 Great crowds trailed along behind him, including many grief-stricken women. 28 But Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves..." 32 Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. 33 Finally, they came to a place called The Skull. All three were crucified there -- Jesus on the center cross, and the two criminals on either side. 34 Then Jesus said, "FATHER FORGIVE THEM, for they do not know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. 35 As the crowd stood watching, the leaders laughed and scoffed at Jesus. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he really is God's Chosen One, the Messiah." 36 The soldiers mocked him, too, and offered him a drink of sour wine. 37 They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" (Luke 23:27-28, 32-37 NLT)*

## **WHAT WE USUALLY DO WITH GUILT**

### **1. WE BURY IT.**

*When I refused to confess my sin, I was weak and miserable, and I groaned all day long... My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. (Psalm 32:3-5 NLT)*

*You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. (Proverbs 28:13 GN)*

### **2. WE BLAME OTHERS.**

*"Yes," Adam admitted, "but it was the woman you gave me who brought me some, and I ate it." (Genesis 3:12 LB)*

*Some people ruin themselves by their own stupid actions and then blame the Lord. (Proverbs 19:3 GN)*

### **3. WE BEAT OURSELVES UP.**

*My guilt has overwhelmed me; like a load it weighs me down...because I was foolish, I am bent over and bowed down; I am sad all day long. (Psalm 38:4-6 NCV)*

## WHAT JESUS WANTS US TO DO WITH GUILT

### 1. **ADMIT IT.**

The Lord gave us a mind and a conscience. We cannot hide from ourselves. (Proverbs 20:27 GN)

Let us examine our ways and test them... (Lamentations 3:40 NIV)

### 2. **ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY.**

I recognize my faults. I am conscious of my sins... (Psalm 51:3 GN)

Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. (James 5:16 LB)

### 3. **ASK FOR FORGIVENESS.**

If we freely admit that we have sinned, we find God utterly reliable...he forgives our sins and makes us thoroughly clean from all that is evil. (1 John 1:9 Ph)

All of us have sinned... yet God declares us "not guilty" IF we trust in Jesus Christ, who in mercy freely takes away our sins. (Romans 3:23-24 LB)

## WHAT JESUS DOES WITH MY GUILT

#### • **HE FORGIVES INSTANTLY.**

God is merciful and quick to forgive. (Isaiah 55:7 GN)

#### • **HE FORGIVES COMPLETELY.**

He has forgiven ALL your sins. He has utterly wiped out the evidence of broken commandments which always hung over our heads, and has completely annulled it by nailing it to the cross! (Colossians 2:13-14 Ph)

#### • **HE FORGIVES FREELY.**

For by the sacrificial death of Christ we are SET FREE, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the GRACE of God! (Ephesians 1:7 GN)

What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven!... What relief for those who... God has cleared their record! (Psalm 32:1-2 LB)