

PEOPLE OF THE SECOND CHANCE

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April 7, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture: Luke 23:33-35, 1 John 1:9-10

Sermon Overview: Jesus made seven statements on the cross, the last being, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Each word He spoke on the cross caused Him pain, but we could view this last statement as carrying the most weight because He made it under the culmination of His immense suffering and pain. And under all that pressure and in all that pain, He forgave. He forgave those who were mocking and crucifying him. If He can do that, what is holding us back from forgiving?

Sermon Series Question:

1. Who do you need to forgive?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. Pastor Mark defined grace as loving someone when they least expect it and least deserve it. How did Jesus display this grace on the cross? Where might the Lord be asking you to show grace? What would that look like?
2. Pastor Mark said that if we pre-decide to live unoffended, we will save ourselves “sideways energy,” “sleepless nights,” “counseling sessions,” and “unhealthy and unsanctified emotions.” What does that statement mean to you? Where should your energy be directed? How can you use prayer to let go of the hindrance of offense and receive the wisdom to display God’s grace and mercy to others?
3. Read 1 John 1:8-10. How are these verses a conditional promise? What does it mean that religion is spelled “do”, while Christianity is spelled “done”? Ask the Lord to reveal any sin, anything that separates you from God, that you need to confess to Him. What does it mean if you are forgiven and free from this sin? How does that change your daily actions and walk of faith?

Digging Deeper:

1. Read Matthew 5 and identify the six antitheses in the Sermon on the Mount. How do you see Jesus fulfill these antitheses on the cross? What does that imply for you as you “take up your cross daily and follow Him”?
2. Proverbs 19:11 says, “Wisdom yields patience, and it is to our glory to overlook an offense.” What does it mean to take offense? What causes you to choose to be offended? Now, think about what it would look like to overlook those offenses.

Practical Application:

- Join a group or a ministry team, or become a mission partner!
- Get into community with a small group. It's not too late. Check them all out at ncc.re/groups!!