

## "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM!"

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT – MARCH 1, 2020

GENESIS 2:15-17,3:1-7; ROMANS 5:12-19; MATTHEW 4:1-11

Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

“The trouble with trouble is, it can start out as fun.” At times, what we do seems innocent, we seem innocent, so good, able, nothing could go wrong, we could do no wrong. ‘We can overcome the wilderness, temptation; we can even take on Satan.’ Times we trust ourselves rather than the faithful power of our God, are when ‘we know not what we do!’ ‘Father, forgive them; Father, forgive us, for we know not what we do.’ Today, God’s grace speaks loud and clear. Let us know today more of what we do: we feed on more than God’s Word and we are left empty; we test rather than trust our God; we bow to and worship other powers in our life, rather than surrender to and worship Christ alone! Do not wait for Good Friday to hear and to take hold of forgiveness! The renewing grace and simple power Christ gives in the first of his seven last words on the cross, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,” fill us, sustain us even in the wilderness, calm and quiet us in the midst of temptation, call us to worship, to trust The Spirit leads us, watches over us, renews us, saves us!

1. ‘Father, forgive them; Father, forgive us, for we know not what we do, we fail to see you as our source of daily bread.’ Genesis 3:1-3; Matthew 4:2-4
    - A. We know not what we do; we think other things will fill us, and we are left feeling empty.
    - B. Father, forgive us, when we binge, fast and diet for unhealthy reasons, rather than feasting more on all you feed us with.
- Lent can be a time to add a healthy serving of ‘p’s’: **prayer, praise, patience, private/personal vs. public, prepare and plan, practice (practice, practice), path & purpose, persistence, perseverance, pardon, price paid, promise, priceless, peace & power**
- C. Jesus dies and rises again to feed us, to grace us, to fill us with forgiveness and so much more!
2. ‘Father, forgive them; Father, forgive us, for we know not what we do, for we test you rather than trust you.’ Romans 5:15-19; Matthew 4:1,5-8
    - A. We know not what we do; we call only when we are falling.
    - B. Forgive us when we fail to call on your power in all we do.

- C. `Forgiveness,' `mercy,' `grace,' these are words of power!
- i. The Spirit helps us, leads us, drives us!
  - ii. Like Jesus, we were baptized to overcome!
3. `Father, forgive them; Father, forgive us, for we know not what we do, for we bow to more than you, we worship more than you.' Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Romans 5:17-19; Matthew 4:8-10
- A. We know not what we do; we fail to worship Christ alone.
  - B. Temptation is real. Satan is real. Satan wants you.
  - C. Thanks be to God, God's power and promise, forgiveness, grace and salvation do not depend on us! God is first, even when we do not make God first; therefore, worship God first!
  - D. God is real! God's grace is real, even in the wilderness! God wants you more! Seven more simple, powerful words:
    - `Return to me, with all your heart.'
    - `Even now, is the day of salvation.'
    - `Where your treasure is, your heart is.'
4. `Father, forgive them; Father, forgive us.' Do you think forgiving us seems illogical? Why would God send angels to wait on us, if we were unforgivable? Why would Jesus die on the cross, if our trespasses were too much? Why the cross if we are to die, if Satan gets to have us anyway? Trust anew, The Spirit leads you, God's simple, powerful, renewing grace is in these words; "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!" Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Romans 5:15-19; Matthew 4:1,11