

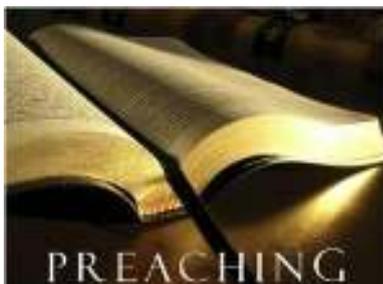
Preaching Dates

26 August 2018

Hazel Brooks (am) at Uddingston Baptist Church
Glen Cartwright (am) at Fusion, Newton Mearns Baptist Church
Andrew Chalkley (am) at Campbeltown Community Church
Alastair Crockett (am) at Bethany Evangelical Church
Gordon Dickey (am) at Kelso Baptist Church
James Ewen (am) at Bo'ness Baptist Church
Bill Haining (am) at Bridge of Don Baptist Church, Aberdeen
Phill March (am) at Clydebank Central Methodist Church
Adam Renberg (am) at Tobermory Evangelical Church, Isle of Mull
Charles Sommerville (am) at Kelty Evangelical Church, Fife
Jackie Macdonald (pm) at Footdee Mission Hall, Aberdeen
Charles Sommerville (pm) at Shettleston Baptist Church
Richard MacPhee (am + pm) at Wishaw Baptist Church
Andrea Mill (am + pm) at Ardbeg Baptist Church, Rothesay, Isle of Bute
Jim McNulty (am + pm) at Islay Baptist Church

29 August 2018

Charles Sommerville (pm) at Shettleston Baptist Church



“Forgiveness”

By Hugh Tannock

Luke 23 – v34 - “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do”

Had you been in Jerusalem that fateful Friday that changed the world, you doubtless would have been brought under the spell of the excitement of the hour.

This excitement was born of the fact that three prisoners were about to pay the death penalty, one of them many saw as a prophet. The other two were robbers and thieves and perhaps patriots fighting against Roman rule. This crowd had a natural love of the gruesome. So bitter was their antagonism that having nailed Jesus to the cross they would not let him die in peace.

The fact that the first words that Jesus spoke on the cross was a prayer should not surprise you. His had been a habit of prayer throughout his life. But what does thrill us is that these words of prayer that Jesus offered were not for Himself, He did not seek His own deliverance nor that of His loved ones nor for His friends. He prayed for His enemies.

These enemies were made up in part of the crowd, the mocking soldiers and the churchmen who, having nailed Him to the cross then stood by shouting abuse at Him. It was around the shoulders of these murderers that He threw the folds of this prayer.

Jesus once preached in this fashion “you have heard it said you shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy but I say to you love your enemies and pray for them”. On another occasion He commanded His followers “to forgive not once but until seventy times seven” in reality without limit.

Forgiveness was to flow from their hearts as constantly as water from a gushing spring. What He preached on that Sermon on the Mount He practised on the grim hill of Calvary, here He is offering unlimited forgiveness.

In asking for forgiveness for His murderers, Jesus was asking for the very best possible as forgiveness means far more than being let off from a penalty. No more is forgiveness a way of escape from the consequences of our wrongdoing, if we sow weeds we are going to reap them, even though we find forgiveness. A classic example of this was David, he cried out to God to have mercy upon him, God heard his prayer and answered him. His forgiveness was full and complete but David suffered of a broken heart for what he had done for the rest of his days.

What is forgiveness, for me it is the restoration of a fellowship with another. When God forgives He takes us back into His friendship and walks with us as if we had never sinned. He forgets our past. In His own promise He says “I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more”.

What a faithful God we have but, where are we when it comes to us expressing forgiveness when we feel that we have been wronged by another.