

Famous Last Words — Father, Forgive Them Sermon Discussion Questions - March 7, 2021

Scripture Passages:

Luke 23:34 (NIV84) Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not known what they are doing."

John 8:6-8 (NIV84) But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again, he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

John 8:10-11 (NIV84) Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Luke 23:34 (NIV84) Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Romans 5:8 (NIV84) But God demonstrates (to cause something to be known by action) his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Warm Up:

Pastor Tom began his message by telling a story of a time he and his family got lost. When was the last time you got lost? Where were you going? Who were you with? Share the story with your group!

Discussion:

In the beginning of his message, Pastor Tom described the unnerving feeling he had after getting lost with his family. He said, "It's like you made one wrong turn back there and now

you have no idea where you are. You keep making decisions, trying to get back, but ultimately end up more lost."

Have there been times and/or areas in your life when you have felt this way? Describe your experience(s).

Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

The problem may be not whether we believe God can get us home, the problem is we are not sure if we trust him enough to follow Him.

When you are feeling lost do you tend to run toward or away from God? Why do you think that is? What things might currently be barriers for you trusting God enough to follow Him?

Consider the story of the adulterous woman in John 8:1-11.

In what ways was the woman in this story lost? Who else in this story is lost?

Still looking at these verses, what can we learn about Jesus' response to those who are lost? How might knowing this impact the way you relate to Jesus?

In describing Jesus' response to the adulterous woman, Pastor Tom said this: Jesus leads with grace and follows with truth.

How do you currently interact with those who you consider lost? What might it look like to lead with grace and follow with truth (relationships, work, teams, kids, etc.)? Who do you know that does this well?

In his message, Pastor Tom says God's number one priority is not punishment, it is forgiveness. The only roadmap Jesus offers is after the person has received grace.

When you think of God, do you think of punishment or forgiveness first? Why do you think that is?

Read Luke 23:34 and Romans 5:8.

What does this passage have to say about the character of God in the face of lost people?

At the end of his message, Pastor Tom said:

Trying to pretend we were never lost isn't going to work, nobody buys it.

Working harder isn't going to help us be found.

What are some healthy ways we can deal with our own lostness? Have you ever been found by God? If so share what that was like. What advice might you give to someone who is feeling lost right now?

Next Steps:

Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

Let's start with grace. Get rid of lies.

God is not eager to condemn all who disagree with him.

God is not eager to control all who will follow him.

God is not eager to put rules on those who follow him.

Then let's receive truth.

God is good.

God is love.

God is not throwing rules at us, he is offering better directions for those who are lost.

As you read through the list of lies, which lie do you most often believe about God? What might it take for you to start letting go of this view of God?

Read through the list of truths. Which characteristic of God is most refreshing to you and why? What is one way you can remind yourself of this truth throughout the coming week?