

**Volume 2 – Day 24: Mercy without Justice
Would Make the Cross Abusive**

It is pretty common for us to take forgiveness of sins lightly. This seems to run rampant in our society. A prevailing thought is that everyone will receive forgiveness from a loving God in the end. Yet if there is no real consequence for sin there is no impetus to behave in any civilized manner.

This notion couldn't be farther from the truth. God's character and nature is that He must provide justice for everyone. Even love demands justice. Justice for victims requires punishment for the predatory behavior of the villain.

Fortunately for us, God provided a means of payment for our sins, through which we could receive a full pardon while His justice is also satisfied. Jesus Christ was the manifestation of God in the flesh. He lived a life that was absolutely sinless and perfect. And God chose to let Jesus suffer our punishment. Jesus was condemned to death and slain by the religious leaders of God's own people. And to show how great the grace of God is, in his dying breath Jesus uttered these words regarding the people who murdered Him, "Father, forgive them because they do not know what they are doing."

So when you think of your forgiveness, remember that you are so cherished that God gave Himself fully to pay for your wrong doing. He did this by His death. It was extremely painful, bloody and humiliating. Naked, raised on a cross in shame, He suffocated to death.

My confirming scriptures:

My aligning experiences: