

# Cries From The Cross

## *A journey into the heart of Jesus*

Devotionals adapted and edited from the book,  
Cries from the Cross: A Journey into the Heart of Jesus by Erwin W. Lutzer

EASTER DEVOTIONAL SERIES | THE "EXCITING" SINGING HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH | 2022

## Week 1: A Cry of Passion

*"Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

*"Father forgive them..."*

Forgiveness sounds like a marvelous idea until you are the one who has to do it. Easter reminds us of the powerful gift of hope and healing that forgiveness brings. As Jesus hung from the cross His first utterance was a word of prayer. Surrounded by jeering taunts, weakened by the loss of blood, His lips were moving; but what was He saying? Listen. Was He groaning in pain; was He feeling sorry for himself; was He cursing those who cursed Him? No, Jesus was praying. Not for ease of torment, not for the eradication of His detractors. Jesus was praying... for you. Jesus was praying for me. He was praying was us. Even in the moment of great affliction, the Lamb of God, was bearing the sin of the world and pleading for our pardon.

*"... for they know not what they are doing."*

The Sanhedrin knew. Judas knew. Pilate knew. The people knew. (and you know, too). They all knew that an innocent man was being sentenced to death for crimes He did not commit. All of these people were not ignorant of the facts of their guilt, but they had no idea of the enormity of their crimes against Love. For whatever reason, they had no clue of who Jesus really was or what He ultimately came to do.

Sin will cause all of us to lose our sense of physical and spiritual reality. Certainly sin makes us ignorant. Adam and Eve thought they would know more if they disobeyed God, but the opposite is true: Sin always separates. The good news of Calvary: Forgiveness always brings about restoration to all who chose to accept it.

### Questions to Explore this Week:

- † Was Jesus' prayer of pardon and forgiveness answered?
- † Reflect on God's mercy. Is the Cry of Pardon still available today?
- † Have you received the forgiveness of your sins through faith and belief in Jesus Christ?

The first cry from the cross echoes the one word without which we cannot be saved: forgiveness. Then as now, it is freely granted to those who humbly receive it. From the sixth to the ninth hour, one Friday... God's Son, humanity's Savior made the only difference that's make the difference in the lives of those standing at the foot of the cross and beyond. Since you were there, when they crucified our Lord? Accept His forgiveness today.

## Series Overview

Week 1	A Cry of Pardon Luke 23:34
Week 2	A Cry of Assurance Luke 23:43
Week 3	A Cry of Compassion John 19:26-27
Week 4	A Cry of Anguish Mark 15:34

## Passion Week

Monday	A Cry of Suffering John 19:28
Wednesday	A Cry of Victor John 19:30
Good Friday	A Cry of Submission Luke 23:46