

If That Isn't Love

By Roy Goodlet

At Calvary God was asked to forgive a major debt. He was asked to forgive the people who were murdering His Son. It was Jesus who was asking God to do the forgiving. In His darkest moment Jesus became close to His Father. He knew that He was not alone. He prayed and said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Could you have done that? Probably not, because many of us cannot forgive someone else.

Jesus began by simply saying, "Father, forgive them..." It was a simple prayer with a lot of meaning. It was a petition to God. This had to be a hard prayer for God to grant. Just put yourself in His place. Your Son, who for the past three years has shown these people only love, peace and kindness is asking you to forgive the people who have nailed Him to a cross. As a human you want revenge. You want to believe in "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, and blood for blood." You don't want to forgive them, even if your son asks you to.

Jesus is also praying for you and me and every other sinner. That's right, you and me! Our sins put Him on the cross, and if we had been present, we might have been part of the crowd that was holding the nails. We might have clapped and cheered with the rest of them. Now, the One we put on the cross is intervening in our behalf. He is pleading for our forgiveness.

When Jesus prayed He brought two major facts to light. #1. Our greatest need is to be forgiven. #2. Jesus has a great love for sinners. Jesus' prayer depicts a love that only God could have. John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

Without forgiveness, one must forever be lost and cannot enter into eternal life. And if you think you are so sinful that God could never forgive you then remember this. If Jesus can forgive those responsible for killing Him, then He can forgive you! Jesus teaches us, that no one is ever beyond the reach of prayer, and no one is beyond the reach of His forgiveness. Be baptized and let Jesus forgive you of your sins. (Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16)