

I Belong

Scripture: Romans 6: 5-8 Romans 8: 31-34
Date: April 12, 2020

FORGIVE THEM - LOVE IN BELONGING!

TEACHING

In Luke 23: 34 Jesus speaks – perhaps to the soldiers, the religious leaders, those gathered with these words of grace - *Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.* Forgiveness is at the heart of Jesus' saving grace to the world.

REFLECTIONS

Where in your life has there been an absence of love – to God, to yourself, to others in the world around you?

Where has the forgiveness of Jesus been most powerful in your life?

IN PARADISE - HOPE IN BELONGING!

TEACHING

Jesus in Luke 23: 43 speaks to one of the other criminals being executed at the time and declares - *Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise* There is hope found in the provision from God for us. In the world in which we live now AND in the world yet to come where we will be with God forever.

REFLECTIONS

What parts of your life are most longing for something more?

Where in your daily life can hope find a voice for others who are needing to hear of God's provision for them?

DEAR WOMAN HERE IS YOUR SON / SON HERE IS YOUR MOTHER - COMMUNITY OF BELONGING!

TEACHING

In John 19: 26-27 - *Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.* We have seen our world is fragile with the separation of relationships both vertical - with God - and horizontal from God to the world around us.

REFLECTIONS

Where in your world are you missing community or belonging to others?

Where in your world can you offer community or belonging to others?

MY GOD – WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? - FAITH IN BELONGING!

TEACHING

In Matthew 27: 46 and in Mark 15: 34 Jesus cries out - *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* A moment of emptiness that we noted on Good Friday as the lack of value that we see in our ideals, dreams, perspectives and even in our faith. Anything – everything – could be on sale for the right price.

REFLECTIONS

Where in your life do you see your value or worth the weakest?

Where in your life do you see your value or worth the strongest?

Where in your life do you see opportunities to remind others of God's value for them?

I'M THIRSTY - STRENGTH FROM BELONGING!

TEACHING

John 19: 28 records the Jesus' request for drink and we are aware that many of us are poured out and weary and empty in our lives. Yet Jesus declares that He is the living water and those who drink of Him will never be thirsty again.

REFLECTIONS

Where in your life are you poured out, weary and empty?

Where in your life has God replenished your needs?

Where in your life can you help replenish those around you?

FATHER INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT - CALLED TO BELONG !

TEACHING

Jesus in Luke 23: 46 calls out - *Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.* In a world where many are living lives that don't know where we are trying to go – much less where we are now! We need a a roadmap for directions

REFLECTIONS

What parts of the Bible have revealed amazing aspects of God to you?

What parts of the Bible have revealed amazing life truths to you?

IT IS FINISHED - LIFE IN BELONGING !

TEACHING

In John 19: 30 - *When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."* Good Friday saw the finishing as an extinguishing of a candle snuffing out life. Easter Sunday sees finishing as the end of the first act – the crucifixion – followed by the beginning of the second act – the resurrection.

REFLECTIONS

Where in your life are there obstacles, hindrances, roadblocks to your faith?

Where in your life have you seen God's encouraging reminders of His love for you?

Where in your life have you felt most belonging to God?