

*Sermon Questions for Life Groups*

**Communion (Luke 23: 26-49)**

**Pastor John Mahaffey**

Sunday, February 5, 2017

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions  
or family or personal devotions*

1. If some in your group attended the Chinese New Year celebration, tell of the experience and reflect on the opportunity that so many heard the Gospel in their own language for the first time. Please take some time to pray that the 'seed' that was planted in so many souls, would flourish.
2. What are your reactions to the reports about "our" mission to the Philippines by Pastors John and Dave, and Paul Gerics?
3. Read Mark 2: 3 – 12. What do you think was the original intent of the paralytic's friends when they lowered him through the roof to see Jesus? Discuss why you think Jesus initially responded the way He did instead of healing the paralytic at the very beginning? In fact, if the Pharisees didn't challenge Jesus, do you think that He would have ended up healing the paralytic?

**Read Luke 23:26-49**

4. In Sunday's message, John spoke about Christ asking forgiveness for those crucified Him, saying: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."
  - a. In vs. 34, who was Jesus referring to?
  - b. What did Jesus mean that they know not what they are doing? How did the magnitude of what was being done escape those who were perpetrating it?
  - c. Discuss the role of the key characters in perpetrating this crime.
  - d. How did Christ's words mean more than just those who were crucifying him at that present time?
  - e. Read James 2:10-11. How does the magnitude of what we do in sin escape us every time we sin?

5. Pastor John pointed out that while Christ was on the cross, He did not exercise His divine right to forgive sins (*Father, forgive them....*)
  - a. Why did He do this?
  - b. Can you think of other times in the gospels when he forgave others?
  - c. In what other ways did Christ suppress His divine rights, attributes and power while He was being tried, flogged and crucified?
  - d. What should we learn from the example of Christ in regard to our reaction when we feel that our own rights are violated?
  
6. In spite of the merciful prayer by Jesus on the cross for His enemies, not all will accept God's forgiveness. (Matthew 18:14, 2 Peter 3:9) From your experience and observation, what are some of the major obstacles that prevent people from being forgiven? What was your major obstacle and how was it overcome?
  
7. Read the parable in Matthew 18: 21 – 35. If we know the great forgiveness that we received from God, why is it difficult to forgive others sometimes? Is there anyone you should be forgiving today, and what does true forgiveness entail?
  
8. How do you react to referring to the crucifixion as "history's greatest crime".
  
9. Read Genesis 50:20-21:
  - a. How was Joseph's reaction Christ-like in this story?
  - b. In what other ways did Joseph foreshadow Christ in this story?
  
10. Read Isaiah 53 and consider how the prophesy is fulfilled in Luke 23.
  
11. Read, also, I Timothy 2:5, Matthew 5: 43 – 44. Share your thoughts about the work and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
  
12. Share with others in your group about how the cross has changed you and those around you.