

## **Father, Forgive Them for They Do Not Know What They Do (Luke 23:32)**

- Last words of a dying man are often very significant & often remembered
- Of how much more significance are the dying words of Jesus on the cross
- Seven words or statements Jesus makes before He expires on the cross
- They divide into 2 categories: words to the Father & words to the people
- First words Jesus speaks from the cross are words of prayer to the Father

### **I. When Jesus Prays**

- Jesus prays to the very end, such was His habit, while He was suffering
- Jesus' thoughts are not on Himself but on sinners who don't know what they do
- He prays the Father would not enter into judgment with these wretches

### **II. For Whom Does Jesus Pray**

- Jesus' concern: with these sinners & their relationship with God as judge
- 1) Jesus: Mediator sheds His own blood presenting it to the Father
  - 2) Jesus the mediator pleads the cause of sinful man before the Father

### **III. Why Does Jesus Pray**

- Jesus pleads their ignorance: they don't know what they are doing
- Sin is evil, but Jesus pleads their ignorance: Father they don't understand
- There is a world of difference from ignorance and high-handed sin

### **IV. How Jesus' Prayer Was Answered**

- Some of the soldiers, centurions were converted after Jesus' death
- 50 days later, during Pentecost, a great many priests believed in Jesus