

**Aveleigh's Year of Worship**  
**March 5, 2017 First Sunday of Lent**  
**Sermon: THE GREATEST BIBLE WORDS: FORGIVENESS**  
**Text, Luke 23:27-37p. 1134**

*“Great crowds trailed along behind him, including many grief-stricken women. But Jesus turned and said to them, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep for me, but weep for yourselves’ . . . Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. Finally, they came to a place called The Skull. All three were crucified there—Jesus on the center cross, and the two criminals on either side. Then Jesus said, ‘FATHER FORGIVE THEM, for they do not know what they are doing.’ And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. The crowd watched, and the leaders laughed and scoffed. ‘He saved others,’ they said, ‘let him save himself if he really is God’s Chosen One, the Messiah.’ The soldiers mocked him too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’ “Luke 23:27-37 (NLT/NIV)*

## **1. WHAT WE USUALLY DO WITH OUR GUILT**

**WE BURY IT**     *“When I refused to confess my sin, I was weak and miserable, and I groaned all day long . . . My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, ‘I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.’ And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.” Psalm 32:3-5 (NLT)*

*“You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins.” Proverbs 28:13 (GN)*

**WE BLAME OTHERS**     *“Yes,” Adam admitted, “but it was the woman you gave me who brought me some, and I ate it.” Genesis 3:12 (LB)*

*“People’s own foolishness ruins their lives, but in their minds they blame the LORD.” Proverbs 19:3 (NCV)*

**WE BEAT OURSELF UP**     *My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear . . . I am bowed down and brought low; all day long I go about mourning.” Psalm 38:4, 6 (NIV)*

## **2. WHAT JESUS WANTS YOU TO DO WITH YOUR GUILT**

**ADMIT IT**, **“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” I John 1:8 (NIV)**

**ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY** , **(stop blaming others)** *“I recognize my faults; I am conscious of my sins...” Ps. 51:3 (TEV)*

**ASK FOR HIS FORGIVENESS** “If we freely admit that we have sinned, we find God utterly reliable . . . he forgives your sins and makes us thoroughly clean from all that is evil.” 1 John 1:9 (Ph)

“All of us have sinned . . . yet God declares us ‘not guilty’ IF we trust in Jesus Christ, who in mercy freely takes away our sins.” Romans 3:23-24 (LB)

**SHARE GOD’S FORGIVENESS WITH OTHERS.** Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. NIV

Matthew 6:12, And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. NIV

### 3. WHAT JESUS DOES WITH MY GUILT

• **HE FORGIVES US INSTANTLY**, “God is merciful and quick to forgive.” Isaiah 55:7 (GN)

• **HE FORGIVES US COMPLETELY**, “He has forgiven ALL your sins. He has utterly wiped out the evidence of broken commandments which always hung over our heads, and has completely annulled it by nailing it to the cross!” Colossians 2:13-14 (Ph)

• **HE FORGIVES US REPEATEDLY**, “(Christ). is always interceding on our behalf.” Heb 7:25 (Ph)

• **HE FORGIVES YOU FREELY** “For by the sacrificial death of Christ we are SET FREE, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the GRACE of God!” Ephesians 1:7 (GN)

**PRAYER:** Most Holy and merciful God, Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Amen Ps. 52:10-12

- FOUR FOR YOUR ROAD:** 1. What does a guilt trip look like?  
2. What remedies a guilt trip?  
3. Why can Christ save us from our guilt trips?  
4. How could you help someone else to end their guilt trip

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**Texts,**

**FIRST LESSON Matthew 4:1-11 p. 1037**

**Second Lesson, Luke 23:27-37p. 1134**

**Prayer Of Confession**

God of the depths, searcher of hearts, you know the tumult of our lives -- a busyness that bruises those nearest, a loneliness that claws at the soul, a fearfulness that leads to distrust and cynicism. You know our longing for a more centered life -- time for reflection in prayer; gracious, unhurried times with friends and family; renewing rest and exercise; growing moments to deepen our faith and witness.

God of our days and our wishes, lead us into this holy time of Lent so we can let go of that which pulls us from your path. Give us the courage to persist in prayer, excel in kindness and walk gently on the earth. Heal the wounds we carry, forgive the errors we commit and lead us to new life. In the name of Jesus. Amen.