



I. Introduction

1. The death of Jesus was **NATURAL**
2. The death of Jesus was **SUPERNATURAL**

II. Words of **FORGIVENESS**

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Luke 23:34

What an incredible **EXAMPLE** for us – He prays. He had begun His ministry that way.

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened. Luke 3:21

In this passage - we see Him **BEGIN** His earthly ministry and life with prayer.

Jesus said

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Luke 23:34

Peter said,

*"Now, brothers, I know that you acted in **ignorance**, as did your leaders. Acts 3:17*

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message." John 17:20

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Luke 23:34

1. In this prayer we see **PROPHECY FULFILLED**

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Luke 23:34

*Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because **he poured out his life unto death**, and was **numbered with the transgressors**. For he bore the **sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors**. Isaiah 53:12*

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Hebrews 7:25

2. In this prayer we see Jesus **INTERCEDE** for people

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Luke 23:34

Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." Matthew 9:2

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Luke 7:48

"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Mark 2:7

WHY?

- First thing is that this is the **BEGINNING** of Jesus' ministry of intercession.

*"Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because **he always lives to intercede for them.**" Hebrews 7:25*

*"Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also **interceding for us.**" Romans 8:34*

- Second - Jesus was driving home the point that these sins were against **GOD**.

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,** so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge." Psalm 51:1-4*

3. In this prayer we see that **IGNORANCE** is not an excuse

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Luke 23:34

Reference: Leviticus 5:15-16, Numbers 15:22-25

4. In this prayer we see the **DARK SIDE** of the human heart

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Luke 23:34

5. In this prayer we see **REAL LOVE**

***Then** Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. Luke 23:34 (NKJV)*

Reference: 1 Corinthians 13