

Who Can Forgive?

by Selwyn Hughes

Jesus' forgiveness is free but not cheap, requiring His death on the cross to bring us forgiveness.

Scripture: Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 1:18, Matthew 9:6, Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 1:9

Topics: "Christ's Forgiveness", "Sin Redemption"

Description

Selwyn Hughes preaches on the unique ability of Jesus to forgive sins, contrasting it with the limitations of secular therapists and counselors who can expose but not heal the deep stain of sin in the human soul. Hughes emphasizes the profound impact of Christ's forgiveness, breaking the power of sin and setting the prisoner free, a transformation that no one else can offer. He highlights the cost of this forgiveness, reminding listeners that it was not cheap but required Jesus to die in order to bring true forgiveness to humanity.

Transcript

... the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins ..." (v. 6)

For reading & meditation:

Matthew 9:1-12

Perhaps one of the most significant ways in which Jesus is unlike anyone else who has ever lived is that He had the ability to forgive sins. I am sure you will know the words of the famous hymn which refers to the forgiveness offered by Christ: He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free. I know of no one else who can do that. Some psychoanalysts try to rid the soul of guilt, but though they may be successful with pseudo -guilt (guilt that is imagined rather than real), they are powerless to deal with the stain of sin that is deeply ingrained in every human soul. The secular therapist will examine the stuff of your dreams, invite you to answer a series of harmless questions, and then drag out from your forgotten past the source of all your trouble - some past transgression or sin. But even the most highly trained team of psychoanalysts cannot forgive. They may expose an old wound, but they cannot heal it. They may show you that your trouble is an ancient sin, but they cannot cleanse it from the system. And that is what our sick souls need most of all - forgiveness. A man I talked to the other day said he went to a professional counselor, a non-Christian, who found the root of his trouble - an old and wicked sin. "Now," said the man, "tell me the cure." "Just forgive yourself," said the analyst. Forgive yourself? It's a lot easier to do that when you know that you yourself have been forgiven.

Lord Jesus, You have not only forgiven me but You keep on forgiving me. Help me realize, however, that though Your forgiveness is free, it is not cheap. For You had to die in order to bring me forgiveness. Help me never forget that. Amen.

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