

Women Inseparable



Romans 8:35-39

Who Holds *Forgiveness?*

A 15 Week Scripture Study
No homework. No cost. No pressure
Come as you are/where you are.

Fall 2022
August 25th - December 8th

Women Inseparable



Romans 8:35-39

We are women who stand together on the promise of Jesus Christ's love that He displayed on the cross, sealed in the grave, and eternally proclaimed in His resurrection!

As followers of Jesus, we are Inseparable of Christ's love despite our various journeys of life, our joys, our pains, our society, our culture, our location or the physical distance between us.

And in His Love, we stand together in Prayer, Scripture, and Girl Time proudly declaring that we are Women Inseparable.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35-39 ESV



Hello,

I understand the emotions and memories that easily rush through our hearts and minds upon simply hearing the word forgiveness. I value the strength it takes for you to join this study. Truly, I am proud of you, and I thank you for joining me for such a study as Who Holds Forgiveness.

My prayer is that we will all show up as we are and where we are. I pray our pretense will shed at the door of our group and/or in our time alone with God the Father. That we will see and understand all that the Lord has for each of us found in His written word for our growth and for His glory.

My prayer is for you, for your heart, and for your open hands.

Jaclyn Palmer

A decorative border of autumn leaves and berries surrounds the central text. The leaves are in various shades of brown, tan, and orange, with some showing detailed vein patterns. Interspersed among the leaves are clusters of small, round, reddish-brown berries on thin stems.

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Question Guide

Did I read this out loud?

Did I write out this passage?

Did I pray over this passage?

What's the context?

Who is speaking?

Who is listening?

Where are they?

What year/season is it?

What about the culture?

Who asked the question?

Is this based on tradition?

Is this teaching freedom in the New Testament?

Are there repetitive words?

What Scripture comes to mind?

Is this seen elsewhere in the Old/New Testament?

Week 1

all things new

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Mark 1:4

Simple Truth

Mark opens with a fundamental game changer to those who heard John the Baptist's proclamation on this day. John cried out for each hearer's eyes to be open to the forgiveness of their sins. What makes this fundamental is in his location and in his decree.

John's Location: You see, John was not a priest. He was not offering the sacrifices as is required from the book of Leviticus. Nor was John even standing in the temple. He was a man clothed not in priestly garments but in animal apparel. He was the son of a priest/prophet, Zechariah, but his personal reputation was far removed from temple duties. John, a Levite, raised in a home blameless in the Levitical law (sacrifices for sins), was a man of the wild. He was comfortable (and called) among nature itself.

John's Decree: Away from the formalities of the Old Testament law, John proclaimed a new process for forgiveness of individual sin. Indeed, this is a fundamental game changer to all who hear. Some knew the Scriptures foretold in Isaiah and Malachi. Some were eagerly overcome with this new found freedom from sin. Yet, some struggled within their souls as to the words being spoken out of place, out of context, and out of tradition.

Personal Study

The question for us today is the same as seen in each gospel:

Have you heard this message of John's?

Have you received God's forgiveness of your sins?

Have you found freedom in God's eternal promise of His Son, Jesus Christ?

What is your Salvation story? I encourage you to never tire in telling it "one more time."

What do you know about John's story? Below are Scripture passages to introduce you to this man known as John the Baptist and/or to challenge you to learn "one more thing."

Isaiah 40; Malachi 3; Matthew 3; Luke 1,3; John 1,3; _____

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Personal Study

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Yes, I want to learn one more thing!

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Week 2

but God alone!

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Mark 2:5

Simple Truth

Any Bible student knows that God offered a forgiveness of sins to his very first creations. We see the bloodshed of an innocent animal draped upon the skins of a sin-filled man and wife. Throughout the Old Testament it is evident that only God had the power to forgive sins. Not church. Not religion. Not man, but God alone.

Here we see the Pharisees (the Bible students of the day) witness something new, something against all they knew. This day, they heard a Man offer forgiveness of sins outside the Levitical law.

Jesus, surrounded by people of all backgrounds, gathered in a personal home (not a temple), dressed not in priestly attire, and without the blood of an innocent animal within his grasp, looked upon a man lying sick before him. Then he declared the impossible, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

This is the first time in our Scriptures that we see Jesus declare a viable proclamation of His power over sin. Up to this point, Jesus had preached and healed and cast out and called and loved. But right here in the ears of the Pharisees (who knew and obeyed Scripture fully), Jesus spoke the forgiveness of sins without an OT atonement, without a priest, and outside the temple grounds.

Personal Study

Jesus has the power to forgive you of your sins. This is true on the day of your Salvation, and this is true in each and every moment of your life. Jesus has forgiven you. Do you hear that? Do you believe that?

Are you on this mat laid before His feet hearing His words? My prayer is that you will hear and believe. That you will stand and walk in the newness that is called the forgiveness of sins.

Scripture verses that relate to Mark 2 and the forgiveness of sins _____

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Scripture verses that relate to Mark 2 and the forgiveness of sins

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Week 3

don't do it

“Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”- for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.” Mark 3:28-30 (Matthew 12; Luke 11)

Simple Truth

Do not blaspheme. According to Jesus, to refer to the Spirit of God as an unclean spirit (that is a demonic spirit) is an unforgivable sin. Some of us wonder if we have ever blasphemed against the Spirit. We get nervous that we can be under the condemnation of being “unforgivable.” The sweet fact that you wonder about that proves within you that you are not in this condemnation. The difference between the unforgivable and the forgiven lies in the heart of man and seen by God alone.

1. **John 3:16, Romans 5:8:** God loved the world, in that while we were still sinners (living/talking against God), Christ died for us.
2. **1 Timothy 1, Acts 26:** Paul, in his ignorance, not only blasphemed against Jesus, but he also desired those around him to blaspheme the risen Savior. Yet, as Jesus declares here in Mark 3, All sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter.
3. **Mark 3,** Consider to whom Jesus is speaking. The religious scribes of the day were accusing Jesus of doing miracles by way of Satan. These were God abiding Jews that witnessed the miraculous power of God in the flesh right before their eyes. In place of offering a sacrifice of praise to God Almighty, they gave credit to Satan. This is disgraceful. Their hearts were so hardened to the Truth, the Life, and the new Way of Jesus Christ that they piously deemed it demonic.

Do not forgive. We do not have the power to forgive blasphemy against God. This sin is not ours to forgive or to justify or to write-off. Blasphemy is between a person and Almighty God. We do, however, have the power to pray for their hearts to soften; therefore, pray!

Week 3

don't do it

Personal Study

Ponder the passages listed above. Where do those passages lead your heart? Take some time to express those thoughts to the Lord - as you are/where you are.

Matthew 12; Luke 11

John 3:16; Romans 5:8

1 Timothy 1; Acts 26

Other passages I came across: _____

Bonus challenge: In Mark 4, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower to the ears of the Pharisees in the presence of his Disciples. In light of blasphemy and God's hand in forgiveness, what are our responses to the different "seeds"? How can you attach the heart of Jesus, God's hand in forgiveness, and those around you to your reaction in the four different "seed situations"?

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Week 4

the heart of forgiveness

“Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” Mark 5:20

Simple Truth

There are times in our lives that we perceive a situation as our moment to decide the end result of forgiveness in the heart of another person. Sometimes we accidentally place ourselves in the place of God.

We tend to do this when our feelings get hurt. It is a natural response to see the behavior of another as a personal attack against ourselves. And in doing this we elevate ourselves as the holder of their forgiveness. It's interesting how this happens.

Will you consider setting the image of that person or that situation on a shelf momentarily as we glance through encounters between individuals and Jesus? Throughout the gospels, we see Jesus having multiple encounters with other people who say and do things that are shocking, hurtful or offensive. Yet, He refrains from making these behaviors as an attack against himself. Rather, Jesus sees each person as loved by God his Father. His heart is moved with compassion in place of offense.

As we look at these encounters, may we set our eyes on his response of compassion. May we see the effects of such a response as this.

Personal Study

Will you humanize each story as if each account were your story to tell among friends? Note what your response would honestly be when a person speaks to you as these people spoke to Jesus. How would you react when a person behaved in these manners in your presence? How would your story sound as you told your version of these accounts? Would these be stories in which you would desire an apology? Be honest with yourself. Fair warning, this might hurt a little. You may find yourself concluding this challenge with a proclamation of thanksgiving for God's compassion for you. I did.

Scripture verses that relate to compassion _____

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Week 5

evidence of forgiveness

“And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.” Mark 7:20-23

Simple Truth

Mark 7 contains an interesting conversation between Jesus and the Pharisees. These Pharisees are exceptional at taking the behavior of others as a personal attack against themselves. As if they are the ones that can feel the literal heart of betrayal felt by God alone. Fascinating, really.

In this chapter, the followers of Jesus were not abiding by the traditional law of washing. You see, there were not Jews among them who would defile themselves by eating anything without first washing all things from their dishes to their hands. Yet, the disciples were eating from the field with unwashed hands. The Pharisees could not contain the offense they felt from this blatant attack against the tradition of the elders. Clearly an apology or atonement for their deeds were at hand.

Yet, Jesus flips the card and declares what really matters. And what really matters is the heart. Every time.

Personal Study

Living in the freedom of forgiveness is a life-changing mentality that is equally simple and challenging. It is simple in that all actions and decisions boil down to the sweet name of Jesus. When His Name is written on your heart, overwhelming your mind, and spilling from your lips, then one cannot help but pour out a natural heart response of Jesus. Yet it is challenging because we are still in the flesh, we are still in a broken world, and we are still being stalked by a roaring lion who craves our dedication to him rather than to God.

Practice living in each situation throughout your day by simply proclaiming the name of Jesus over it, in it, and through it. Then watch how Jesus slowly transforms you into who He has created you to be.

Scripture verses that relate to living in the freedom of offense_____

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Week 6

what Peter learned

“And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me,”” Mark 8:34

Simple Truth

Peter was one of the 12 chosen, sent, and entrusted “as they were” disciples of Jesus. Jesus knew who Peter was (raw, real, emotional, untrained, etc), yet treated and trusted him as one capable of loving God, fully.

2 Peter gives us a clear message that what Jesus taught him in Mark 8 carried with him throughout his life. How powerful to witness both the before and after of one man’s life lived in the forgiveness of sins!

When we live in the freedom of God's forgiveness, we live under different rules. We see a different vision. We embrace a new identity and a new outcome. This is what Jesus is beginning to teach Peter here in Mark 8. Notice that this is just a glimpse in the beginning stages of a life lesson Jesus is teaching Simon Peter.

This lesson is bigger than this moment of open rebuke. It is bigger than the stories of Peter contained throughout the four gospels. It is deeply rooting itself, moment by moment, lesson after lesson. Its fruit begins to multiply after the presence of the Holy Spirit. By the time we read Peter’s final charge recorded in 2 Peter, we see Peter summing it all up in one sentence, “For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.”

Your vision, he says, determines your life; therefore, deny yourself and follow Him.

Personal Study

Peter’s vision was temporary. It was a good vision. His vision was Jesus. That is the best thing to set your eyes on. The problem: he only saw Jesus in the flesh. Whereas, Jesus wanted to deepen Peter’s eyes on the Eternal deity of Jesus Christ.

Scripture verses on my heart _____

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Scripture verses on my heart:

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Scripture verses on my heart _____

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Week 7

who holds your forgiveness

“But (Joseph) refused and said to his master's wife, “Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge... How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” Genesis 39:8-9

Simple Truth

Joseph beheld his God. These four words define Joseph's heart, fully. As he lifted up the character of his boss, the trust that laid between them, and the respect he had for his boss' marriage, he declared any dirty deed to be a sin between his heart and his God. Others would have been affected by his deeds. Reactions and responses would have been inevitable; however, this was not his concern. The relationship that he protected above all was his clean heart before his God. Sin, our sin, although it causes a ripple in the lives of those around us, is against God. Every time. May we truly ponder this.

We tend to revisit the same sin pattern and the same forgiveness conversation with the same people. What would happen to that sin pattern and that forgiveness conversation and that person if next time we understand that habitual/cyclical sin was against God? Would that bring a halt to your tongue? Your hand? Your walk?

The truth of the matter is this ... the forgiveness that we are craving from ourselves or from those around us fall short to God's forgiveness. I think this is why we repeat our sin/forgiveness pattern.

Personal Study

We all came to this study in search of the answer to our question, Who Holds Forgiveness?

Here, in Genesis 39, we see a piece of the answer. Forgiveness from others is part of the equation, and we will get to that within the next few weeks, but today I pray that you and I will remove all others from our conversation with God. I pray we will think about our forgiveness in the Hands of God before we step into our cyclical sin.

Scripture verses on my heart _____

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Week 8

who holds their forgiveness

“And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father,” But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?” Genesis 50:17, 19

Simple Truth

Joseph beheld his God, fully. He lived story that devastates our hearts. From childhood heartache, to dreadful teen experiences, to neglect and accusations and isolation in his adult years. He was hurt by the sins of others on a consistent basis. He was the direct target for the sins of many. And he felt the pain of each sin-filled arrow. Yet, Joseph declares a powerful statement about forgiveness recorded in the Old Testament.

“Am I in the place of God?”

Who am I, Joseph declares, to offer you what God alone can offer? I am not God; therefore, I am not the one to whom you are to direct your apology or from whom you are to receive forgiveness. I, he says, am not God.

The word forgive/forgiveness as seen before Jesus came was spoken in prayer to the God of all creation.

Personal Study

May I ask a delicate question? Have you been hurt by the sin of another person? A simple yes or no is sufficient. I pray this person will not cloud the thoughts of God that are circling your heart right now. Keep your eyes on the Hands of God. Will you sit with your yes/no answer and with your eyes on the Hands of God. May the Lord sit with you in your silence, in your emotions, in your understanding.

Scripture verses on my heart _____ (Hebrews 10:30; Romans 12:19)

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Week 9

because of Jesus

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:7-9

Simple Truth

Have you ever considered that the answer to our question is Jesus? As we step into the New Testament from Joseph’s heart recorded in the Old Testament, we see the life-changing forgiveness that came through the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Before Jesus, forgiveness was always and only between God and the prayerful sacrifice laid before Him on an altar. After Jesus, we are free to stand at all times before the living Lamb of God. Every sin is freely forgiven. No matter who we are. No matter what we have done. Jesus forgives. Always.

John opens his letter reminding us of this most powerful promise for us from God through Jesus Christ. It is the last time we see the word “forgive” in Scripture. What John does with this promise is absolutely beautiful. As we read through his final three letters, we see his emphasis on love.

John lays down a vast contrast between sin and love. Jesus Christ being the line that divides. As if he is saying, There is one thing called sin and there is one thing called love; choose. Your choice defines your heart before God.

This is big and all too often neglected because of its “unattainability” or our “misunderstanding of the context.”

I submit this statement:

As we sit in the Hands of God - wherein lies His endless forgiveness,
Overwhelming love drips from our hearts as we gaze upon His face
His love spilling from His grasp upon all around us.
He alone makes living in forgiveness and love no longer unattainable.

Personal Study

Are you sitting in the Hand of the One who holds forgiveness? Take a moment to gaze upon His face from that viewpoint. What do you see? What do you feel?

How great is His forgiveness and His love for us!

Other Scripture on my heart _____ (1 John)

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Week 10

serve instead

"And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John...whoever would be great among you must be your servant," Mark 10:41, 43

"There were some who said to themselves indignantly...But Jesus said, Leave her alone. She has done a beautiful thing to me."

Mark 14:6 ♥

Simple Truth

Indignation is a big emotion among a group of believers. These men were in this together. They were learning and doing the same thing at the same time - side by side. Yet, they were easily indignant towards one another. That's raw, real. The fact of the matter is, these men were taking the relationships that one another had with Jesus as a personal attack against *their* relationship with Jesus. Fascinating.

We not only see this throughout their years with Jesus, we see this throughout our Christian community today. Raw emotions cast toward one another based on our perceptions, comparisons, and insecurities from our personal relationship with God. Interesting that this is not a matter of forgiveness between person and person. Rather, Jesus declares this issue as a necessity of retraining our actions to serve one another.

Ponder this: Jesus did not use their indignation as an open door to grow them in the lessons of how to forgive one another. He used it to grow them in the ways of serving one another. Interesting how serving one another heals the raw emotions of indignation. In serving one another, the strong emotions of comparison and insecurity will dissolve.

Personal Study

Jesus countered the strong emotion of indignation with "the heart of servitude" toward one another, today.

May we purposefully set our focus on seeking an opportunity to serve the one in whom we are indignant toward. May we get real today. Who have you been comparing your relationship to Jesus with? Whose service to God have you been comparing your service with? More importantly, what practical way can you serve that person - today?

Other Scripture on my heart: _____

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Week 11

don't just stand there

"And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses." Mark 11:25

Simple Truth

Look at this intentional placement for a lesson of forgiveness. After cleaning the temple from all forms of empty worship, Jesus talks to His disciples about prayer and forgiveness as they behold a fig tree (image without fruit).

Imagine the response of Jesus as He takes in the image of sacrifice that is being bought and sold within the house of God. Nothing being done from a heart of repentance of their sin. Every sacrifice was a mere show, an empty sacrifice from a heart that was far from seeking God.

And now, hear the words of Jesus as he says, "Whenever you stand praying, forgive."

The root of a tree produces life to its fruit. To root your heart in God's forgiveness for your sins produces life to the fruit of the Spirit within you. How vital it is to saturate our roots into the rich soil of His mercy! And how beautiful to witness His forgiveness produce fruit in you toward others!

May we not bear the image of an empty sacrifice with a heart that has forgotten the deep forgiveness of our God. Rather, may we forgive if we have anything against anyone that we may be a branch that bears much fruit - even the fruit of forgiveness. (John 15)

Personal Study

Your heart of forgiveness stems from the saturation of your roots. Consider this truth: The fruit of forgiveness is deeper than your own strength to forgive. When we rely on our own strength, we are attempting to offer what is not in our hands to offer. However, to forgive with saturated roots is to remaining in the Hand of God and understanding how deep the Father's love is toward you. It's allowing that love to offer life and forgiveness to anyone about anything. Indeed, how deep is His love! Matthew 18 might be a good personal study.

Other Scripture on my heart: _____

Notes

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Yes, I want to learn one more thing!

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Week 12

just like Jesus

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

Simple Truth

Paul gives us a beautiful exhortation that deepens what we have seen thus far. He points to the forgiveness of God that is freely given to us through the blood of Jesus Christ, and he causes us to smile.

This “Forgiving one another” does not put God’s forgiveness into our hands. Rather, this exhortation encourages us to scoot over and pat the seat next to us. It’s offering an invitation to sit beside you in the Hand that holds forgiveness. You might not instantly form a deep bond full of laughter, but you can sit within the same Hand gazing upon the same Face spilling out the same Forgiveness and living the same Love.

That is what this exhortation to forgive one another looks like. It’s literally giving the same gracious favor given to you. And it’s not something that we need to conjure up within ourselves, for are we in the place of God? No, it’s something that we have fully grasped hold of as we are fully beholding God, we cast a quick side glance and a smile as we give space for another to do the same.

Personal Study

To forgive as Jesus is simply recognizing that there is enough of His Hand that holds to hold all who are around us. How precious it was to find our place in His Hand. Offer that precious, gracious love to another. Not because it is in your hand to do so, but because you are in the Hand of God.

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Week 13

there's no time

"Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake." Mark 13:33, 36

Simple Truth

What a powerful reminder to each and every one of us regardless of where we are or who we are or what topic we are growing in.

The end statement is this: Jesus is coming again!

In the light of our topic of forgiveness, shall we pause to match up our thoughts to this truth. Who holds the forgiveness that you are holding onto while you await for Jesus to come again? The answer is God, the very one who knows when Jesus is coming again. As if God is in total and complete control, even in this area of forgiveness.

Mark records Jesus warning his disciples to stay awake four times. The final warning being directed to you and me; Stay awake.

Our bodies were created to require physical sleep; Therefore, sleep. However, our souls are created to knit together with Christ and with others; therefore, stay awake.

That is, be sober, be vigilant, for the devil like a roaring lion seeks whom he may devour. Stay awake in mind, in spirit, and in such fundamental responses as forgiveness.

Personal Study

Both forgiveness and time are in God's hands. We cannot hold onto either of them - it's clinching a control that has never been available for grasp. It's time, dear friend, to release your grip. Rest your heart. Breathe.

Will you write a name on a piece of paper? Release the firm grip that name has had in your life. Give your control of forgiveness to its rightful owner, God. Let God fill you with His peace and promise to stand for you. And trust God to offer forgiveness to the heart who seeks Him.

Scripture on my heart: _____

Notes

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Week 14

through the eyes

"But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Mark 14:28

"But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." Mark 16: 7

Simple Truth

Mark 14 records the heart of many responses to Jesus. It is beautiful to see that the heart truly spills forth the manners of the soul. I sit here with chapter 14 and am overcome with the parallel parable found in Mark 4. Consider the seeds that were sown. Consider the responses of these seeds. And consider the power of the wind over such a delicate thing as a seed. As the Lord explains to His disciples in Mark 4, the seed is the Word being spread upon all the grounds. The responses vary pending the soil and the elements that surround it (thorns, birds, etc...) Yet, as I sit here in Mark 14 seeing the fruit of the seeds that were sown and responded to by each of these disciples, I consider the change that happens upon the wind. The Holy Spirit, seen and referenced as the wind throughout Scripture, comes to convict the world (the seed) of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. A seed's landing is not the seed's end story. The Wind is ever at work. (John 3:8)

Luke expounds on the lives of each of these men we see here in Mark 14. In the book of Acts, Luke testifies of the lives of these seeds. As we draw near to the conclusion of our question, Who holds forgiveness, may I challenge each of us to enter into a personal Scripture study seeking passages from Acts that carry on the story of these seeds?

May we open our eyes and behold the eyes of betrayal, of denial, and of scattering. And may we find ourselves looking through the eyes of forgiveness.

Personal Study

Through the eyes of Betrayal: v. 20, 44-45

Through the eyes of Denial: v. 29-31, 68-72

Through the eyes of Scattering: v.19, 27, 31, 50

Through the Eyes of Forgiveness: v. 18, 21

Bonus: Through the Eyes of Mark: v 51-52 (Acts 12,13 & 15; 2 T, Col, Phil, 1 P)

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Week 15

it happened in darkness

"And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour." Mark 15:33

Simple Truth

Today we conclude with the greatest gift of forgiveness - the death, burial & resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. May we conclude this study where our forgiveness story began. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all give account to our forgiveness stories. May we sit in awe as we remember the light that washed over us in His time of darkness.

Jesus hung on the cross receiving personal attacks of hatred, of sin, being thrown at Him by those who witnessed His body hanging there for all to see. He felt the blow of every attack. "Father, forgive them," He cried out, "for they do not know what they are doing." His love for His creation ran deep within His core. For He was God in the flesh. He was there the day He formed Adam, breathing life into him. He was there as He knit Cain in the womb. Every life, every heartbeat, He designed and loved. Every hair on every person counted, every tear cherished. Every sin carried upon His own body upon the rugged tree.

God the Father loved you and me to the point of giving His Son, so that we could be called the child of God. Moving us from creation to child. Carrying us from separation to Eternal Life in which nothing could separate us.

He knew His cost. He knew the depth of that pain. For He had a world full of men and women whom He longed to cover under the shadow of His wings, but who could not fully understand His love because of the sin that crept inherently through each and every one. So, He asked Jesus to come in the flesh, to relate to our level of living, to take on our inability to conquer this inherited sin nature, and to offer us His relationship with His Father, our very Creator.

Jesus.

Personal Study

Read through the final two chapters of each of the four Gospels and look for the hours of darkness (noon to 3pm) that fell upon Jesus. As you read these words, think about these two truths:

1. During His time of darkness, you were being forgiven. Selah.
2. As Jesus was experiencing the heartache He knew He had to face, we -in our new found forgiveness - were being seen by the Father.

Such a speechless reality.

Scriptures that fill my heart: _____

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Did you know, YOU are a part of Women Inseparable, whether you attend in person on Thursday mornings, within a sweet home group, on Zoom, or via video or Podcast?

Each of us - as we are, where we are!

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Come join and connect with us at WI Online.
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Jesus & Me Today
But God!

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