

THE WORD OF FORGIVENESS

The Seven Greatest Words of Love
Rick Warren

"A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves. . . .' Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.' The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.'"

Luke 23:27-28, 32-37 (NIV)

WHAT WE USUALLY DO WITH OUR GUILT

1. "When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, 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 my guilt. 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 (GNT)

2. "'Yes,' Adam admitted, 'but it was the woman you gave me who brought me some, and I ate it.'" Genesis 3:12 (TLB)

"People's own foolishness ruins their lives, but in their minds they blame the LORD." Proverbs 19:3 (NCV)

3. "My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. . . . I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning."

Psalms 38:4, 6 (NIV)

WHAT JESUS WANTS US TO DO WITH OUR GUILT

1. "The LORD gave us mind and conscience; we cannot hide from ourselves." Proverbs 20:27 (GNT)

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8 (NIV)

"Let us examine our ways and test them." Lamentations 3:40 (NIV)
2. "I recognize my faults; I am conscious of my sins." Psalm 51:3 (GNT)

"Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16 (TLB)
3. "If we freely admit that we have sinned, we find God utterly reliable . . . he forgives our sins and makes us thoroughly clean from all that is evil." 1 John 1:9 (PHILLIPS)

"All have sinned . . . yet now God declares us 'not guilty' . . . if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins." Romans 3:23-24 (TLB)

WHAT JESUS DOES WITH MY GUILT

- **HE FORGIVES ME** "God . . . is merciful and quick to forgive." Isaiah 55:7 (GNT)
- **HE FORGIVES ME** "He has forgiven you all your sins: Christ has utterly wiped out the damning evidence of broken laws and commandments which always hung over our heads, and has completely annulled it by nailing it over his own head on the cross." Colossians 2:13-14 (PHILLIPS)
- **HE FORGIVES ME** "[Christ] is always living to intercede on their behalf." Hebrews 7:25 (PHILLIPS)
- **HE FORGIVES ME** "For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God." Ephesians 1:7 (GNT)

"What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! . . . What relief for those who . . . God has cleared their record." Psalm 32:1-2 (TLB)