

BEYOND BELIEF: EXPLORING THE CHARACTER OF GOD



MATTHEW 6:8-15

**the STRENGTH of
FORGIVENESS**



FORGIVENESS



Is not
NATURAL

MATTHEW 6:8-15

**the STRENGTH of
FORGIVENESS**



The weak can never forgive.
Forgiveness is the
attribute of the strong.

Mahatma Gandhi



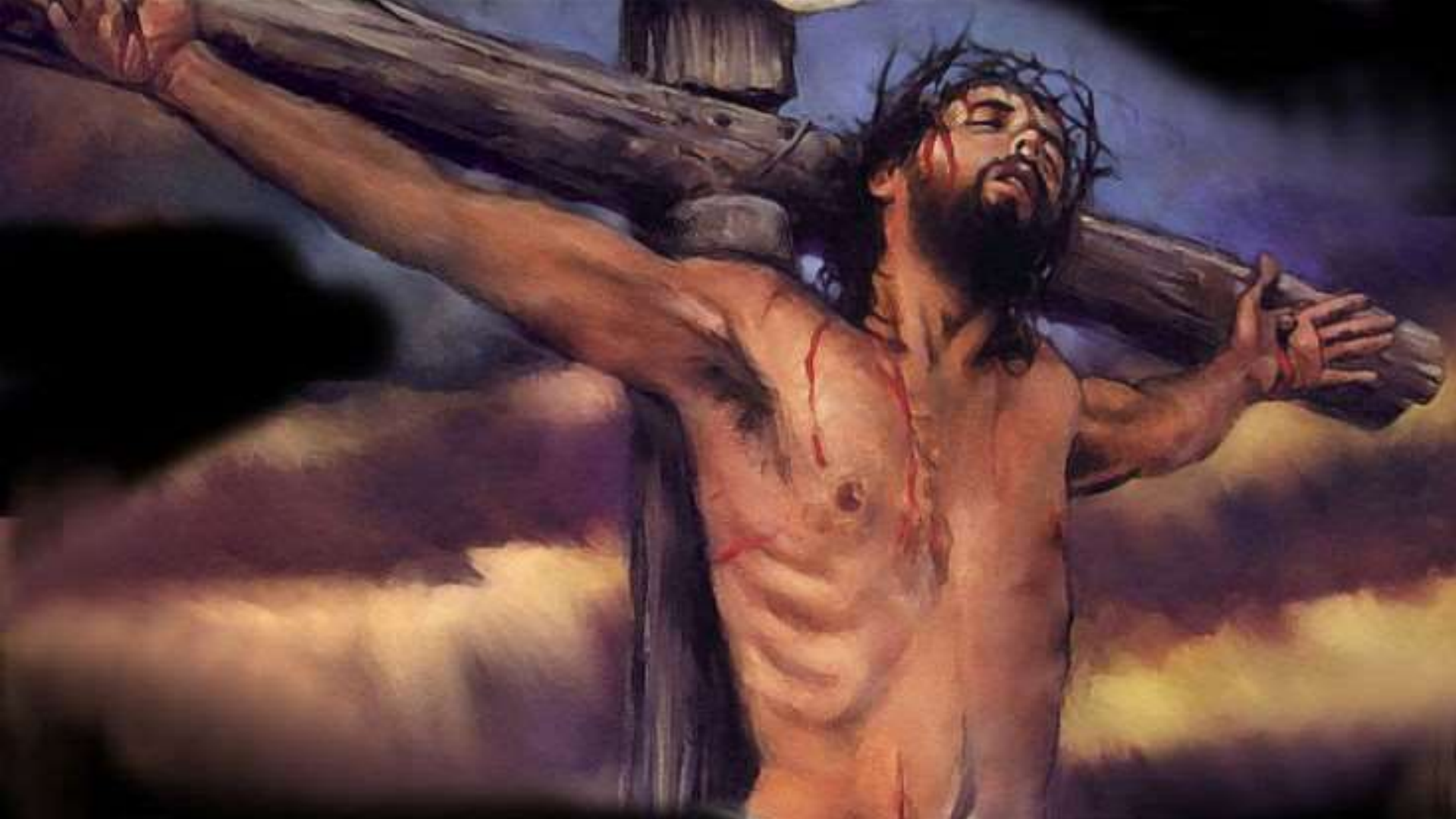
The Crucifixion of Jesus



Philippians 2:7-8



⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.



Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them;
for they know not what they do.
(Luke 23:34 KJV)



**I do not seek my own will, but the will
of Him who sent me... (John 5:30, 6:38)**

**I lay down my life (*for you*) ... (John
10:15-18)**

Father forgive them... (Luke 23:34)

**Christ is eternally our greatest example
of strength!**



1 Corinthians 15:9 (NKJV)

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Acts 20:35b (NKJV)

And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "



**“But God commendeth his love
toward us, in that, while we were yet
sinners, Christ died for us.”**

Romans 5:8 (KJV)



How can I forgive
when it hurts so much

Matthew 6:14-15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Unforgiveness is choosing
to stay trapped in a
jail cell of bitterness,
serving time for someone
else's crime.



Matthew 18:22 (NKJV)

²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.



Model Forgiveness

Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV)

³¹ And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat.

³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren."



**WHEN YOU FORGIVE,
YOU IN NO WAY
CHANGE THE PAST
- BUT YOU SURE
DO CHANGE THE FUTURE.**

- BERNARD MELTZER

Forgiveness releases pain; Forgiveness opens a closed heart; Forgiveness let's you move on, let's you move forward in your spiritual growth.

How can I forgive?

I need justice!

It hurts too much 

It's too difficult!

How Do I forgive, and Whom?

GOD WILL GIVE YOU
the **STRENGTH** TO
FORGIVE

