

WEEK 4: YOU ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE BECAUSE YOU ARE FORGIVEN!

GOD'S MASTERPIECE

Grace

A favor with which one receives without any merit of his own

John 3:16/Ephesians 1:7

Matthew 27-28

Mark 15-16

Luke 23-24

John 19-20

The word **forgiveness** comes from the Greek word aphiémi, which means 'to send away, to let go, and to release'. Many times, when we think about the word forgiveness, we are one-sided in our **thinking** and simply think about the great joy and freedom that it **brings**, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. But more often than not, we forget about the harsh, deep suffering that our forgiveness had to be **bought** with.

Jesus' death was not easy. It was one characterized by false accusation, illegal trials, harsh **beatings**, and excruciating **crucifixion**; yet Jesus endured this suffering in a gentle and respectful manner. This was the attitude of a Savior that was willing to endure the worst pain **imaginable** for a people who were deserving of death and eternal **separation** from Him, but whom He wanted to give eternal life to spend with Him.

We can either take this truth and live in guilt for not being **perfect**, or we can humbly accept God's gift of grace and think of **ourselves** as God's beloved. YOU are God's masterpiece. The real you is perfect and **priceless**. It's not only what God has to work with, it's what He wants to work with. Every moment that you live is a moment He **persevered** on the cross just for you. The God of the universe, **sustaining** and ruling over all that is, is intimately acquainted with you because He made you Himself. He knows you, He loves you, and because of this, it **pleased** Him to send His Son to die for you.

Jesus' death is a sign to us that we are free. Free of **condemnation** and eternal punishment. His grace was **bestowed** upon us like a crown, and in exchange He took on a crown of thorns, so that we would not have to die. His forgiveness is a gift to you in which you can freely receive **eternal** relationship with God, without having to have done **anything** to earn it. You are worthy of such a gift.

Questions with space for them to respond in the book:

1. What does forgiveness mean to you?
2. How are you going to live differently from what you just experienced and learned