

"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

"Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

"Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said this, *Jesus breathed His last.* Luke 23:34,43,46 (NASB, italics mine)

It is an awful, ugly, violent, disgusting scene. Three men, stripped down, beaten, bloodied, struggling to breathe, hoisted on three crosses, with a gawking crowd consuming the horrific spectacle. The front row seats are occupied by soldiers and those who had a particular interest in the demise of the man on the cross in the middle, Jesus. The execution isn't enough for them, they have to gloat, taunt, mock, and jeer, their inner ugly and evil on full display.

On the backdrop of this canvas of evil and wrong, Luke records three short, beautiful sentences spoken by Christ, three sentences the crowd as well as you and me should pay attention to.

- **"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."**

It is an amazing statement. Through the swollen slits of his eyes, beaten so severely he is almost unrecognizable, Jesus looks down on calloused soldiers, the front row taunters, and the crowd, and pleads with God the Father for forgiveness for them.

What does Jesus mean by "they do not know what they are doing?" It seems those who plotted and brought about his execution knew exactly what they were doing, as did the soldiers, this wasn't their first crucifixion detail. The people in the crowd entertaining themselves with someone else's pain and suffering, watching someone die, don't seem so innocent either. What they didn't know is they were discarding the one person, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, whom they needed the most. They had demoted Jesus to just another dispensable unimportant life, to having no personal, long-term, certainly not eternal, significance.

They didn't know that God's forgiveness runs straight through Jesus, **"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace"** Ephesians 1:7 (NIV). Forgiveness of your and my sins runs through Jesus as well.

- **"Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."**
Startling, there in the midst of the violence, horror, and sinful stench of crucifixion hill, Golgotha, a most tender and merciful moment between Jesus and one of the thieves dying next to him. Yes, a deathbed change of heart, confession, and request. Somehow, this hard-hearted thief who at first mocked Jesus (Matthew 27:44), has a change of heart and mind. He realizes Jesus is innocent, the King of the kingdom that lies beyond death, and that he can take a sinner to heaven, no one else can. Out of the entire crowd, there are just two, this thief and the supervising centurion (Matthew 27:54) who had the light of who Jesus is come on. What about you?
- **"Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."**
Luke records these as Jesus' last words before his death, they are a quotation from Psalm 31, **"You will pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, For You are my strength. Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth"** Psalm 31:4-5 (NASB). Into whose hands have you entrusted your spirit, your soul? Can those hands really hold you, now, in death, for all of eternity? Because as surely as Jesus breathed his last, so will you and I someday. All three men on those three crosses died that day, all three we buried that day, only two had committed themselves into the right hands, salvation is neither universal nor automatic, it is only found in turning to and relying on God, on Christ alone. Don't count on a deathbed opportunity, don't melt away with the crowd, putting Jesus off to another day. You don't know where you'll be tomorrow, but you, like that thief, can be forgiven and saved today.

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



Lord Hear Our Prayers

PRAYER REQUEST

Antonio Villegas, Rachel's Health,
our Country's leadership, Our Pastor Search Team
and those dealing with addiction(s).

SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray,
Farney, Peter, Jimmy, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Noah Martin,
John Michael Chavez, Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker,
Brian Sula, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,
Christopher Sula, Dylan Briggs, Jacob Bowden

CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 and/or e-mail **Judy Mahar** at ldbcprayer@gmail.com with your prayer requests.

Church Board Members:

Hans Frei - Pastor , Richard Mayes - Head Deacon ,
Chuck Arndt, Barb Deibler, Jerry Lyman,
Sarah Storey, April Wilcox



VBS: Magnified!

Coming to Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church

July 21 - 25

Volunteers needed!

Please sign up in the foyer

For more information: Susie (209) 247-9234

Centrifuge Youth Summer Camp

Date: July 7th - 12th

Location: Jenness Park

Cold Springs, CA

For more information Contact

Matt & Wendy Garcia: (209)765-6914

APRIL Announcements

Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesday's @ 6:00 PM
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages @ 7:00 PM
- Food Ministry - 1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday 9-11 AM
- Women's Ministry - Wednesday's @ 10:00AM
- GriefShare: Wednesday's, March 5th - April 23rd @ 6:30 PM
- Chicken Foot - Thursday's @ 1:00 PM
- **FOOD GIVE AWAY - Tuesday, April 15th (9-11 a.m.)**

Fellowship Refreshments were provided by:
"Beverly and Youth Class"

Thank you

Next week "Merle's Class" is up!!

"2025 Tanzania Mission Trip"

November 2nd - 18th

(See Pastor Hans for further details)

If you notice someone has been absent from Small Group or Worship Services for awhile, why not call them or stop by to let him/her know that they have been missed. A kindness that



BUNCO!!!
Monday, April 14th @ 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Giving

April 6, 2025

Offering:
\$3,231.00

Annie Armstrong:
\$188.00

Centrifuge Camp:
\$399.00

Womens Ministry:
\$40.00

VBS:
\$45.00

Attendance:
89

Weekly Events

Sunday School/Small Groups:
9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service:
10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship Service:
6:00 PM

Tuesday: Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday
Food Ministry:

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Wednesday:

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM
GriefShare - 6:30 PM

Thursday: Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

Saturday: Youth Hang-Out 6-9 PM

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www.ldpbaptistchurch.com

Give

Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

Luke 6:38 (NIV)



Yearly Bible Reading Plan - 2025

April 14th - April 20th

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| DAY 1 - John 11-12
(Psalms 42) | DAY 4 - John 17-18
(Psalms 45) |
| DAY 2 - John 13-14
(Psalms 43) | DAY 5 - John 19
(Psalms 46) |
| DAY 3 - John 15-16
(Psalms 44) | DAY 6 - John 20
(Psalms 40) |
| | DAY 7 - John 21
(Psalms 48) |

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.