



Could God Ever Forgive Someone Like Me?

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Because No One Is Beyond Grace

Cross & Grace Ministries
crossandgrace.org

Could God Ever Forgive Someone Like Me?

If you've found this page...

thank you for taking a few moments to listen.

I don't know what brought you here.

Maybe someone shared this video with you.

Maybe you're searching for answers.

Or maybe you're carrying a question you've never been able to escape.

Could God ever forgive someone like me?

Perhaps your past feels too broken.

Maybe you've made choices you wish you could undo.

Maybe you've spent years away from God.

Maybe you've been told you're too sinful...

too damaged...

too far gone.

Or maybe you've simply concluded,

"If people knew everything about me... even God couldn't want me."

If you've ever believed that...

this message is for you.

The message of Christianity is called **the Gospel**.

The word *Gospel* simply means...

good news.

But before we can appreciate the good news...

we have to understand the bad news.

The Bible tells us that every one of us has sinned.

Romans 3:23 says,

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (KJV)

That includes me.

That includes you.

It includes every pastor...

every church member...

every atheist...

every skeptic...

every person who has ever lived...

except Jesus Christ.

Sin isn't merely the wrong things we do.

It is our rebellion against a holy God.

It affects our thoughts...

our words...

our actions...

and our hearts.

Because God is holy...

and just...

every sin must be judged.

Romans 6:23 says,

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (KJV)

That death is more than physical death.

It is eternal separation from the life and blessing of God under His righteous judgment.

The Bible teaches that those who die apart from Christ will stand before God's righteous judgment...

which culminates in conscious, eternal punishment in hell.

Jesus warned that hell is real.

Not because He wanted to frighten people...

but because He loved people enough to warn them.

God does not delight in the judgment of sinners.

Yet because He is holy...

and just...

every sin must be judged.

If the story ended there...

there would be no hope.

But thank God...

the story doesn't end there.

Because the Bible is not ultimately a story about our failure.

It is the story of God's rescue.

The Gospel isn't good news because there is no judgment.

The Gospel is good news because Jesus bore the judgment our sins deserved for all who will trust in Him.

But before you hear what happened at the cross...

listen to why it happened.

Romans 5:8 says,

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (KJV)

God did not wait for us to become worthy of His love.

He loved us while we were still sinners.

That love led Him to the cross.

But why the cross?

Why couldn't God simply overlook our sin?

Because **a perfectly holy and perfectly just God** cannot ignore guilt.

A good judge does not pretend a crime never happened.

God's justice had to be satisfied.

Yet instead of leaving us to bear the judgment our sins deserved...

God did not ask us to provide the sacrifice.

We never could have.

He provided it Himself.

From the very beginning...

God revealed His plan to send the Savior the world needed.

That sacrifice had to be perfect.

Every one of us has sinned.

None of us could ever take another sinner's place.

Only someone completely without sin...

could stand in the place of sinners.

Jesus Christ alone lived that perfect life.

He alone was the perfect sacrifice.

Jesus Christ is God the Son.

He entered the world that He created...

and lived the perfect life that none of us have ever lived.

He never sinned.

Yet He willingly went to the cross.

There...

God placed our sins upon His sinless Son...

and poured out the judgment they deserved upon Him.

Jesus took our place.

He bore the punishment we deserved...

so that those who trust in Him...

could receive the forgiveness we could never earn.

Listen to how the Bible describes what happened at the cross.

"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21, KJV)

At the cross...

God's justice against sin was satisfied in Jesus Christ.

God's love was demonstrated.

God's grace was extended to sinners.

Three days later...

Jesus rose bodily from the dead.

The tomb was empty.

Death could not hold Him.

His resurrection declared His victory over sin and death.

It confirmed that His work on the cross was complete.

Death had been defeated.

Today...

Jesus Christ is alive.

He is not merely a great teacher from history.

He is the risen Lord...

who still saves everyone who comes to Him in repentance and faith.

Romans 10:9 says,

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (KJV)

The death...

the burial...

and the resurrection of Jesus Christ...

are the very heart of the Gospel.

Through His finished work...

God now offers...

forgiveness of sins...

eternal life...

to everyone...

who repents...

and believes...

in His Son.

So how do we receive that gift?

The Bible calls us to...

repent...

and...

believe the Gospel.

Repentance is a change of heart and mind about God and your sin...

that turns you toward Him.

It means no longer defending your rebellion...

or trusting yourself...

but turning to Christ for mercy.

Faith is placing your complete trust...

in Jesus Christ alone.

Not in your goodness.

Not in your religious efforts.

Not in your baptism.

Not in your church attendance.

Not in your ability to clean up your life.

Your confidence rests entirely...

in Christ.

The Gospel isn't good news because it tells bad people to become good.

It's good news because it tells guilty people that Jesus saves.

The ground at the foot of the cross...

is perfectly level.

None of us come to Jesus...

because we deserve Him.

Every one of us comes the same way...

as guilty sinners...

in need of a gracious Savior.

Let's go back...

one more time...

to those three crosses.

One thief continued to mock Jesus.

The other recognized his own guilt.

He knew he deserved judgment.

He knew Jesus had done nothing wrong.

And in faith he said,

"Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." (Luke 23:42, KJV)

Jesus answered,

"Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise." (Luke 23:43, KJV)

Jesus didn't save that man...

because he became good.

Jesus saved him...

because Jesus...

is good.

That thief is one of the clearest pictures...

of every one of us.

He had nothing left to offer.

No good works.

No religious accomplishments.

No opportunity to prove himself.

Only empty hands.

And it turns out...

empty hands...

are exactly what God asks us to bring.

Maybe today...

you finally see yourself...

in that thief.

Guilty.

Unable to save yourself.

In desperate need of mercy.

The same Savior who welcomed that dying thief...

will welcome you...

if you will come to Him...

in repentance...

and faith.

Hear the promise Jesus makes to everyone who comes to Him.

"...him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37, KJV)

Not because you've earned it.

Not because you've become worthy.

But because He is full of grace...

and full of truth.

If today God has opened your eyes...

to see your need for Christ...

don't turn away.

Turn to Him...

in repentance...

and faith.

Call upon Him.

Confess your sin.

Thank Him for what He has done.

Entrust yourself completely...

to Jesus Christ.

Not because certain words save you...

but because the Savior does.

If today you have trusted in Jesus Christ...

I encourage you to begin reading the Bible.

Start with one of the Gospels.

Get to know the Savior who gave His life for you.

Find a church that faithfully teaches God's Word...

exalts Jesus Christ...

clearly proclaims the Gospel...

and will help you grow as His disciple.

Grow in your relationship with Him.

And if Cross & Grace Ministries can encourage you along the way...

we would be honored to hear from you.

And if you're still searching...

keep seeking.

Read the Gospels.

Ask your questions.

God is not afraid of honest questions.

I'll leave you with one final thought.

Two guilty men...

hung beside Jesus.

One died rejecting Him.

One died trusting Him.

The difference...

was not how sinful they had been.

The difference...

was how they responded to Jesus.

Today...

that same question...

stands before every one of us.

How will you respond to Jesus?

(Pause.)

There...

was room...

for the thief.

(Long pause.)

There...

is room...

for you.

Thank you for listening.

May God bless you.