

He laughed and said, "I hope I would do it, but let me ask you this, would you ask the Lord to make you the kind of person who could do that. I said yes and he said, that is all God wants that is repentance.

A few weeks later I got out of my car stood beside the road and looked up to heaven. I thought of Jesus praying from the cross, "**Father, forgive them**" [Lk.23] and said,

"Jesus, if you forgave those people that beat you and spit on and cursed you, I believe you will forgive me. Please forgive me and help me become the right kind of person."

My first sermon was on the thief on the cross who prayed and went to heaven and I used the words of a hymn, "

"There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins / And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains / The vilest offender, who truly believes / That moment from Jesus a pardon receives / The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day / And there may I, thought vile as he / wash all my sins away.

As a human being Jesus did not simply *teach* forgiveness, He *forgave*. I had faith that he would forgive me. Jesus could have escaped the cross but he didn't, He went there to forgive me.

"They bound the hands of Jesus in the garden where he prayed / They led him through the streets in shame / He could have called ten thousand angels to destroy the world and set Him free / He could have called ten thousand angels / But He died alone for you and me."
(Matt. 26:46-56)

In a tract for clean-up workers for "911" Max Lucado wrote to each one personally and said:

"Jesus looked at the cross and saw hell, but He went there anyway because He did not want to go to heaven without you."

Continued in Month One

2. Luke explains why he wrote his Gospel
(Lk. 1:1-4)

3. The Human Ancestry of Jesus
(Matt 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38)

Jerusalem

4. The coming conception and birth of John, the presenter of the Messiah announced by and angel to his parents.
(Lk 1:5-25 / Isa. 40 / Mal. 3, 4)

Nazareth 90 Miles North of Jerusalem

5. The virgin conception and birth of Jesus announced to Mary (Lk 1:26-38)

6. Mary visits her relative Elizabeth. It could well be that Jesus and John were cousins.
(Lk. 1:35-56)

7. A summary of John the Baptizer's birth and growth to manhood pictured (Lk 1:57-80)

8. An angel tells Joseph about Mary's miracle pregnancy. (Mt. 1:1:18-25)

(Bethlehem - Outskirts of Jerusalem)

9. The Birth of Jesus (BC 5 or 6?) Luke 2:1-7

10. Shepherds visit the baby in the barn.
(Luke 2:8-20)

11. Jesus is circumcised when He is 8 day's old.
(Luke 2:21)

12. Jesus is presented in the Temple and meets Simeon and Anna. (Lk 2: 22-38)

Weeks or Months Later in a Home

13. Eastern Philosophers and/or religious leaders (Magi) visit the house of Jesus to bring gifts.
(Mt. 2:1-12)

To Egypt Until Herod Dies (2 Years ?)

14. Herod kills the babies in Bethlehem and Jesus' family, warned by an angel escapes to Egypt.
Matt. 2:13-18