



- AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL**
Greater Bethel AME Church
201 Grandin Road
Rev. L. S. Penn, pastor
- AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION**
Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church
1901 Rozzell Ferry Road
Rev. Morgan W. Tann, minister
East Stonewall AME Zion Church
1729 Griers Grove Road
Rev. James E. McCoy, minister
Gethsemane AME Zion Church
531 Campus Street
Rev. George E. Battle Jr., minister
Grace AME Zion Church
219 S. Brevard Street
Rev. Smith Turner III, minister pastor
Greenville Memorial AME Zion Church
6116 Montlieth Drive
Little Rock AME Zion Church
403 N. Myers Street
Rev. Williams M. White, minister
Walls Memorial AME Zion Church
2722 Bancroft
Rev. J. T. White, minister
- BAHA'I**
Baha' Faith
4122 Providence Road
- BAPTIST**
Antioch Baptist Church
3701 Monroe Road
Rev. Preston Pendergrass, pastor
First Baptist Church
1020 South Church Street
Rev. J. B. Humphrey, pastor
First Mount Zion Baptist Church
1515 Remount Road
Rev. F. G. Lowery, pastor
Friendship Baptist Church
3301 Beatties Ford Road
Rev. Coleman W. Kerry Jr., pastor
Gethsemane Baptist Church
1300 S. Winnifred Street
Rev. C. E. Dewberry, pastor
Greater Mount Sinai Baptist Church
1243 West Boulevard
Rev. Norman E. Kerry, pastor
Greater Providence Baptist Church
1829 Cleveland Avenue
Rev. J. W. Wallace Jr., pastor
Macedonia Baptist Church
1401 Halteras Avenue
Rev. L. J. Wallace, minister
Mayfield Baptist Church Memorial
700 Sugar Creek Road
Dr. L. Diggs, pastor
Mount Carmel Baptist Church
412 Campus Street
Rev. Riddick, pastor
New St. John Baptist
Newell-Hickory Grove Road
Rev. R. H. Leak, pastor
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
517 Baldwin Avenue
Rev. Andrew Culbertson, pastor
St. Luke Baptist Church
1109 Rodney Avenue
Rev. L. D. Parker, minister
St. Paul Baptist Church
1401 N. Allen Street
Rev. Paul W. Drummond, pastor
St. Paul Community Baptist Church
2200 Julia Avenue
Rev. Robert M. Young, pastor
Salem Baptist Church
5318 Salem Church Road
Second Calvary Baptist Church
114 Nelson Avenue
Rev. J. M. Kennedy, pastor
Tabernacle Baptist Church
1135 Redbud Street
Rev. W. A. Rorie, minister
University Park Baptist Church
2156 Senior Drive
Rev. James E. Palmer, pastor
- EPISCOPAL**
Christ The King Center
425 E. 17th Street
Father James Jenyon, Priest
- EVANGELICAL**
United House Of Prayer
2321 Beatties Ford Road
Elder C. Wilkerson, pastor
Derita House Of Prayer
7520 Cheshire Road
Elder S. Ford, pastor
- LUTHERAN**
Grace Of Peace Lutheran Church
3051 Beatties Ford Road
Rev. Bryant E. Clancy, pastor
- METHODIST**
Cathay Memorial AME Church
624 Chicago Avenue
Rev. Eli Price, pastor
Logan Chapel CME Church
5505 Parkton Road
Rev. James L. Cotton, pastor
Weeping Willow AME Zion Church
306 Billingsley Road
Rev. J. W. Henderson, pastor
Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist
540 Winston Street
Rev. James McCallum, minister
- PRESBYTERIAN**
Antay James Presbyterian Church
2400 West Boulevard
Rev. M. A. Cochrane, pastor
PRESBYTERIAN-UNITED
First United Presbyterian Church
201 N. E. 7th Street
Rev. E. J. Moore, pastor
Grier Heights Presbyterian Church
325 Skyland Avenue
Memorial United Presbyterian Church
2408 Beatties Ford Road
Rev. H. W. Givens, pastor
St. Paul United Presbyterian Church
Robinson Church Road
Rev. Robert L. Walton, pastor
Statesville Avenue United Presbyterian
2806 Statesville Avenue
Rev. Wilburn M. Sanders, minister
- PRIMITIVE BAPTIST**
Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church
747 W. Trade Street
Rev. Thomas W. Samuels, pastor
Nazareth Primitive Baptist Church
2230 Bancroft Street
Rev. James A. Frieson, pastor

Message of the Week

"Then," Said Jesus, "Father Forgive Them"

TEXT: "And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. THEN SAID JESUS, Father forgive them; for they know not what they do."-Luke 23:33-34

One subject takes the form of the adverb "THEN," expressing the time, or setting of a particular event or action. "Then, said Jesus, Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

To fully grasp the subline significance of this statement we must first understand the action preceding it. The verse preceding our text reads, "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. THEN said Jesus, Father forgive them."

Here we are face to face with the capstone of the Church's mission, to be stewards over the great heritage of love left to us by our Lord Jesus. Here love is demonstrated rather than communicated. We have been entrusted with many of God's graces. But today let us look at the major possession we have from the Father. Jesus has made us to be stewards over His love. These are His very words, "Love ye one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:11-12). This love that the Father bestowed upon us is not our own. We are but "vessels meet for the Master's use" in pouring out His love to those who are unloved as well as those who seem unlovable.

In this is demonstrated the character of the church in the community. The church does not live as a true witness to the manifold love of Christ by the height of her spire, the statelyness of her edifice, nor the dignity of those who worship at her altar, but by that action which grows out of the "then" situations of life as she lives out her creeds in the market place.

As the second century of the American Church draws to a close, there is a demand that our deeds outreach our creeds. Today, as well as in Jesus' day, there is a need for love in **EXPRESSION** rather than love under **DISCUSSION**. It was so in Jesus' time that pity had replaced compassion. For you see, pity is demonstrated by hot flashes of uninvolved concern which diminishes as suddenly as it was aroused. But compassion is demonstrated by a commitment that stays riveted to the task until the hurt has been resolved or the crisis has passed.

In order to perfect our witness we must often return to these words of Luke about our Saviour: "Then said Jesus, Father forgive them..."

I'm convinced that no sweeter words have ever reverberated upon the human heart than these of Jesus.



Presented by

Rev. Norman E. Kerry,

Pastor

Greater Mt. Sinai

Baptist Church

When did Jesus resort to forgiveness? THEN, when all ugliness of mankind had been hurled into His precious face. THEN, when spittle leaked into the corners of His mouth, THEN He prayed, "Father, forgive them." How sweet it forgiveness? Forgiveness is the honey from the comb of God's eternal mercy. The church must practice the policy of Jesus. Jesus had no problem with practicing what He preached. Often in our lives we cannot bring the two together. But in the life of Jesus the gulf is bridged. During the ministry (John 13:35;)

often about forgiveness. This strange doctrine of forgiveness awakened the questioning mind of Peter. "How oft," he asked "shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him, till seven times?" Peter wanted to be legal and stay within the confines of the law. But Jesus responded by affirming that the law of love sets no limits on forgiveness. "I say not unto thee, until seven times; but, until seventy times seven." To forgive, taught Jesus is not an act of the law, but an attitude of love.

If we would win the world for Christ, it must be by our acts and attitudes of love. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to the other" (John 13:35;)

THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR FINDS THE CHURCH STANDING AT THE CROSS ROADS OF DECISION. What will we do? Will we continue to tread the low road, giving lip service only to the high challenges of Jesus, or will we take the high road of love, making ourselves vulnerable to the agonies that

go with the life lived under the reproach of the cross? All of us have our "then" opportunities.

IN CONCLUSION LET US AGAIN VISIT THE TEXT, "THEN SAID JESUS, FATHER FORGIVE THEM..."

He said this when the mob crowd had arrested Him from prayer meeting with His sleepy disciples. "THEN!"

This was His Heavenly prayer when earthly hopes failed. He prayed, "Father forgive them..."

Well, He could have prayed, Father send Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, let them strike my enemies dead, and rescue me from this cross...But, "THEN" He said, "Father, forgive them..."

What a prayer this was! Jesus

prayed because He knew that love always wins. Love is right, and right always wins. No wonder Wesley wrote:

"Love divine, all love excelling
Joy of heaven, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
All Thy faithful mercies crown."

The Church must follow on in His footsteps; though they lead us into the dark valley and the eerie shadow of death. It led Him there. But His love was transforming and transcending love. It transformed the cross into a laughing pad that catapulted Him into the ages as Lord of Eternity. His love transcended the grave, transforming it into a tunnel, through which He walks with every believer into the bright light of victory at the other end. "THEN said Jesus, Father..."

ATTEND
THE
HOUSE
OF
WORSHIP
OF
YOUR
CHOICE
TAKE
SOMEONE
WITH
YOU
YOU'LL
BOTH
BE RICHER



Sponsored By :

Pepsi Cola Bottling Company, Inc.

Charlotte, N.C.



APRIL Special

Featuring: **HI-LO SHAG**
Package:
Carpet
Padding
Installation

BIG Carpet Savings **\$8.95** sq. yd.

Now's the time to **BUY!**

During our special event, every Style, Color & Maker is on Sale. Select, Plushes, Piles, Hi-Lo Shag

Easy
Financing



"Floor Covering Specialist"
Ware's Of Charlotte

222 Tuckassegee Rd.
OFFICE 376-2272
HOME 394-3046