

# *The “F” Word*

## “Finding Forgiveness”

**Luke 24:1-6a:** “On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen!”

### **How Can I Find God’s Forgiveness This Easter?**

#### **1. By *detaching* from the sentiments of detached, skeptical onlookers.**

- **Luke 23:32-38:** “Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. <sup>35</sup>The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.’ <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup>and said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’ <sup>38</sup>There was a written notice above him, which read: | THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

#### **2. By *disengaging* from disengaged, insulting critics who only want God on their terms.**

- **Luke 23:39:** “One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: ‘Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!’”

#### **3. By *delivering* my life over to the “Life Deliverer” who alone can grant eternal forgiveness & eternal life.**

- **Luke 23:40-43:** “But the other criminal rebuked him. ‘Don't you fear God,’ he said, ‘since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup>We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.’ <sup>42</sup>Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered him, ‘I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.’”