
WELCOME**Our Mission is ONE REAL PASSION**

1. Each **ONE** Matters
2. Be **REAL**
3. Follow the **PASSION** of Jesus

Our Goal is to

- Connect you to Jesus
- Connect you to His community for discipleship
- Connect you to your mission and purpose in life

New to Foothills? Our mission as a church is to do everything we can to help you grow your faith. If you would like to get to know us a little better or begin or continue your journey of faith, speak to an elder or staff member or **contact Foothills** at **208-853-0011**, or for more information, stop by the **Connection booth in the Atrium**.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Fill out a **Connect card** using the QR code on the screen or the actual card on the seat back in front of you. Place your prayer request in the ORANGE offering box in the back of the Sanctuary. You can also send a prayer request using this form: [Prayer Request - Foothills Church](#). The staff and volunteers pray over these weekly.

Baptism - One important step in your faith journey is baptism. To learn more about baptism, speak to an elder or staff member or **contact Foothills** at **208-853-0011** and we will send you the teaching on Believers' Baptism.

ONGOING/UPCOMING

- **MomCo** - [Foothills Moms Community- MomCo - Foothills Church](#)
- **Small Groups** - [Foothills Church \(churchcenter.com\)](#)
- **MOMENTUM:** Find out more here [Momentum | Foothills Christian Church](#)
- **NEW! CHURCH CENTER App** – Watch sermons live, follow along with the message and take notes, join a group, register for upcoming events, chat with your small group. The app is available in the App Store or Google Play -- search for *Foothills Christian Church*
- **Host the Adsit Famly** – [Adsit Home Stays - Foothills Church](#)
- **Serving Opportunities:** Fill out a **CONNECT** card or visit the **CONNECTION BOOTH** in the Atrium



- **FH Kid's Ministry Volunteer Training & Info Meeting – March 1** after 2nd service. Already serving, brand new, or just curious about getting involved? Come hear the vision & get your questions answered. Snacks provided!
- **Production** – If you can push a button, we can teach you the rest! Whether you are tech-savvy or brand new, this behind-the-scenes team has a spot for you.
- **Worship** – If you sing or play, come audition! Our leaders will coach, support, and help you grow.
- **Sunday Breakfast Team** - Love to cook? We are looking for someone to provide breakfast once a month for the Sunday Morning volunteers -- a fun and creative way to serve your church community.

The Message: INSPIRED

Pastor Trent Renner

“Father, forgive them . . .” & “Today you will join me in paradise.”

Gladiator Quote from Marcus Aurelius: “When a man sees his end, he wants to know there was some purpose to his life.”

If you knew you had 12 hours to live, what would you say? Who would you call? What would you do?

We begin a teaching series that will lead us to Easter.

When you know your last days are near, what you say in your last moments reveals your innermost motivations, desires and convictions.

- EXAMPLE: Hospice...loved one awakens...edge of seat

In this series, we are going to inspect the last 7 phrases Jesus spoke while on the crucifixion cross.

1. *Father forgive them (Lk 23:34)*
2. *Today you will be with me in paradise (Lk 23:43)*
3. *Woman, behold your son, son behold your mother (Jn 19:26)*
4. *My God, My God, why have you forsaken me (Mt 27:46)*
5. *I thirst (Jn 19:28)*
6. *It is finished (Jn 19:30)*
7. *Into your hands I commit my spirit (Lk 23:46)*

I want to reinforce the disposition, the demeanor, and the attitude of this message series. Jesus went to the cross WILLINGLY. Nobody took Jesus’s life from Him....HE GAVE IT.

To set the tone for this message series, I’d like for you to focus on the Bear Grylls description of Jesus...

BEAR GRYLLES Video...

The first & second statements of Jesus while on the cross.

“Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing.”
“I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The Historical Record - Luke 23:32-43 (NLT)

Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. 33When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.

34Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

35The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” 36The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. 37They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” 38A sign was fastened above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.”

39One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”

40But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? 41We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” 42Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

43And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

While Jesus says this... Soldiers are gambling for his clothes, people are taunting Him, spitting, mocking, rolling eyes, shaking heads, thinking He deserves every bit of this. Two criminals next to Him, likely completely stripped of all clothing, bleeding out, fighting to breath.

Imagine you are alive and well in Jerusalem at this moment in time. You are one of His followers, and you hear Jesus make this statement from the cross. What would you think or do?

I think I would recall things I had spoken about Him behind His back. I would have flashes of unholy behavior from recent times in my life. I might think about how He healed that blind man, how that woman stopped bleeding when she touched Him, and how Lazarus came out of the tomb after being dead for four days. I would replay in my mind how He walked on the water of the Sea of Galilee.

I would remember him putting his hand on my shoulder and encouraging me to believe in myself even when important people in my life mistreated me and kept putting me down. I would think about the day He prevented a sinful woman from being stoned to death, and how He stared into the eyes of her accusers and got them all to drop their stones and walk away, embarrassed by their judgmental demeanor, knowing that their hypocrisy had been exposed.

Even though you and I are guilty of all sorts of sins, and those sins actually separated us from our God, Jesus's moments and statements on the cross, His final breath, His shed blood, **His sacrifice, took ALL of God's anger toward us and our sinful actions and washed it away with our sins.** When Jesus said, *"Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing,"* ...our very worst collided with God's very best!

When the collision took place in that moment of history, who was stronger? God's best or our worst? God's best or your worst? I ask you to verbally answer that question out loud.

Which one is stronger? Your worst or God's best? **GOD WINS!** Yet, in a crazy kind of way, in this competition, we win too! **You win. You are forgiven.** What's your very worst? **Can it even compete with God's power, love, patience, and kindness?** No competition!

If God can forgive you, can you forgive yourself? Here's the deal—what Jesus says happens! How do I know? Because Jesus said in the Great Commission:

"I have been given ALL AUTHORITY in Heaven and on earth and under the earth." **Matthew 28:18**

In this one statement, God offered His forgiveness to each and every one of us. He will hold up His end of the bargain. You and I must accept it. You and I can only accept it if we choose to become a follower of Jesus. If you have done this—given your life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior—then be free...be forgiven. And since you have been forgiven so much, make it a priority to forgive those who have sinned against you. Jesus started a FORGIVENESS REVOLUTION... join it!

Always remember that God loves you and forgives you. When the Father watches you from above, He smiles way more than He frowns. Believe it. Live it. Share it. You are forgiven. Me too. God is good. That goodness was extended even to the Criminal O. T. C.

Forgiveness ... Even the criminal on the cross?

THE MAN ON THE MIDDLE CROSS Video

<https://youtu.be/MJIKOVQVCE4?si=hR9Z4Qa3r7AaGLe5>

The next statement and last one for today's message...

"Today you will be with me in paradise." **Luke 23:43**

This statement was only for the Criminal on the Cross. We are not that criminal and we likely won't be joining Jesus in Paradise on this day... So, how can we take this specific statement of Jesus's literally. *"Today you will be with me in paradise...?"*

What are the elements of paradise? Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control, among many other wonderful things. Can you, today, choose to be a person of love? To be a person of joy? To be a person of peace? To be a person of patience? To be a person of kindness? To be a person of goodness? To be a person faithfulness? To be a person of gentleness? To be a person of self- control?

“Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.” **Matthew 6:10**