STATEMENTS FROM THE CROSS
Lesson #1 -Father, Forgive Them

Introduction:
1. The cross reveals the great love God has for man.
2. This unusual statement from the cross teaches us a great lesson on forgiveness.
3. In this lesson we will examine 3 aspects of forgiveness...

I. THE FORGIVING NATURE OF JESUS
   A. WHAT HE ENDURED
      1. The rulers and soldiers mocking Him -Lk 23:35-37
      2. The criminals were mocking Him -Mk 15:32
   B. HIS FORGIVENESS
      1. No one crucified has a forgiving nature toward their executioners
      2. It is the greatest demonstration of God’s love -Ro 5:6-9; Jn 15:13

II. THE FORGIVING NATURE WE MUST HAVE
   A. WE FORGIVE TO BE LIKE JESUS
      1. Steven displayed forgiveness -Ac 7:60
      2. We can have a forgiving attitude toward those not sorry
   B. WE FORGIVE TO BE FORGIVEN
      1. The teaching of Jesus -Mt 6:14, 15
      2. The number of times is not relevant -Mt 18:21, 22; Lk 17:3, 4

III. HOW WE CAN BE FORGIVED
   A. THE CROWD AT THE CROSS
      1. The statement of Jesus did not forgive them
      2. They still had to repent on their own -Ac 2:37, 38
   B. MAN TODAY
      1. Man must repent and obey Jesus -Lk 13:3, Jn 14:15
      2. The blood of Jesus cleanses us today -Ep 1:7

Conclusion:
1. Anyone who comes to Jesus can be forgiven -1Ti 1:12-16
2. The cross teaches us the great love of God and His power to forgive

Eric Hicks