**Lent 1 Mid-Week – Luke 23:34 4/3/20**

**Jesus’ first words from the cross: *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”***(Luke 23:34)

Peter didn’t know what he was doing. He was so sure of himself that he swore, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” A few short hours later he had denied Jesus three times.

The disciples didn’t know what they were doing. They were supposed to keep watch but kept falling asleep, until finally the soldiers were upon them and Jesus.

Judas didn’t know what he was doing. For 30 pieces of silver he betrayed his friend and Lord. Shortly afterward he died in the very field he purchased with the blood money.

Jesus’ disciple didn’t know what he was doing. He struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. He thought he was protecting Jesus, never realising that if he wanted to, Jesus could summon twelve legions of angels to protect him. He thought the answer was violence when all the time is was exactly the opposite.

Not one of the disciples knew what they were doing. At the very hour when Jesus was about to defeat sin, death and the devil, they deserted him.

The religious leaders, the political leaders Herod and Pilate, the crowds of onlookers, the Roman soldiers. None of them knew what they were doing. They all thought they were dealing with a human being, when in fact they were dealing with the only begotten Son of God.

What about us? Do really know what we are doing when it comes to our relationship with Jesus?

Do we put Christ above everything else in our lives, or given the chance would we find ourselves in Judas’ shoes, giving up Christ for financial freedom or material possessions?

Do we think our faith is so strong that we would never deny Jesus, but find ourselves hoping no one will know we are a Christian when we are in certain social or work settings where people openly ridicule any belief in God? And what if being a Christian may land you in gaol as it does in some countries. Would you openly deny Christ for fear of your life?

Do we think we know what Christ stands for but then find ourselves being judgmental of and even acting aggressively toward those who do not believe in him? Do we find ourselves thinking that it is all up to us to defend God when God is completely capable of defending himself?

How often do we find ourselves doubting whether we have done enough to get into heaven instead of trusting that what Jesus has done for us is more than enough? Even worse how often are we tempted to convince ourselves that we have been good enough and actually deserve a place in heaven, when it is only because of Jesus’ death for us, that we have any hope at all.

Do we really know what we are doing?

Thankfully even if we don’t know what we are doing. Even if we at times give in to the temptations of wealth. Even if we find ourselves disowning and abandoning Christ in certain social settings. Even if we act judgmentally and aggressively at times towards those who deny God or speak against Christ, instead of showing love, gentleness and compassion. Even if we hurt others because we do not know what we are doing. God does not give up on us. Instead God keeps loving us and seeking to change us.

Jesus hangs on the cross for us and when we mess up Jesus says ***“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*** Still Jesus dies for our sin and the Father forgives us.

**Amen.**