

Title: Beyond justice
Pastor: Lucille May
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Hosea 7:4-7 NIV

⁴ They are all adulterers, burning like an oven whose fire the baker need not stir from the kneading of the dough till it rises. ⁵ On the day of the festival of our king the princes become inflamed with wine, and he joins hands with the mockers. ⁶ Their hearts are like an oven; they approach him with intrigue. Their passion smolders all night (their baker sleeps all night); in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire. ⁷ All of them are hot as an oven; they devour their rulers (judges). All their kings fall, and **none of them calls on me**.

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Luke 23:34

³⁴ ...Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do...

"If everyone followed the 'eye for an eye' principle of justice eventually the whole world would go blind." – Ghandi

"No one remembers what the politicians had to say at that time. No one who heard Gordon Wilson will ever forget what he confessed... His grace towered over the miserable justifications of the bombers."

"I have lost my daughter, but I bear no grudge. Bitter talk is not going to bring Marie Wilson back to life. I shall pray, tonight and every night, that God will forgive them."

"Virulent evil (racism, ethnic hatred) spreads through society like an airborne disease; one cough infects a whole busload. The cure, like a vaccine must be applied one person at a time." – P. Yancey

The only hope for the future lay in an all-embracing attitude of forgiveness of the peoples who had been our enemies. Forgiveness, my prison experience had taught me, was not mere religious sentimentality; it was as fundamental a law of the human spirit as the law of gravity. If one broke the law of gravity one broke one's neck; if one broke this law of forgiveness one inflicted a mortal wound on one's spirit and became once again a member of the chain-gang of mere cause and effect from which life has laboured so long and painfully to escape." – Laurens van der Post – The prisoner and the Bomb

"Apart from forgiveness, the monstrous past may awake at any time from hibernation to devour the present. And also the future." – P. Yancey