



*“Father First”*  
*Perspectives from the Cross*  
March 10, 2019

*“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34*

**Luke 23:23-38**

When we find ourselves “hanging on the cross” or going through the “valley of the shadow of death” or in the “lions’ den” or in the “furnace of affliction” ...or whatever hard and painful moment that is, we need to:

1. **FOCUS Exclusively**  
Luke 6:45, Isaiah 53:3
  - Exclusive focus means **FAITHFUL** ministry.  
Galatians 5:22, Matthew 23:23
2. **LOVE Unconditionally**  
Matthew 5:44, 46, Galatians 5:22
3. **PRAY Comprehensively**  
Matthew 5:44, Luke 5:31
  - The Father **VALUES** everyone!  
2 Peter 3:9, Acts 16:25-34
4. **SUBMIT Entirely**  
Luke 9:23, Acts 20:23

**Questions to Consider**

- Where is my focus right now? Am I exclusively focused on the Father or am I focused on my excruciating circumstances?
- Do I have an unconditional love for those in my life?
- Do I pray comprehensively for those in my life and specifically for those who are against me?
- Am I submitted entirely to the purposes of God even if I know hardships await me?

**What is the Holy Spirit prompting me to do?**

---

---

---

---