

papa, forgive dem

di cross had been erected, di flesh had been tear, hanging by spikes for im hands, and jesus labored for everi breath. Dia no bi a muscle for im bodi dat no bi burning. Im eyes stung from di mixture for blood and sweat. All dos who im had been teaching for three years de gone; only a handful for friends stood dia for di foot for di cross. Oh, but di taunters and di revilers, dem de dia; dem de shouting komot "come on top down, king for di jews. Ha! some savior! im saved odas, why no fit im save imsef?" through blurred eyes, jesus looked down upon dat murmuring rabble; and make im eyes drift heavenward and im uttered di short prayer; "father, abeg forgive dem, for dem no sabi wetin dem be doing. "

tell me, from wia does dat kain love com from? you fit explain to me di we you from for dat source for forgiveness? contrast dat to we. We lose awa dey sharp wen pesin cuts we off for go slow or bumps into awa grocery cart or wen di kids aren't ready on top taim. Look for jesus. "father, forgive dem, for dem sabi no bi wetin dem do. "

who for get criticized jesus if im had one little word for concern for imsef? maybe say, "i'm innocent, wetin wey concern mai rights?" or even a word for criticism, "surely, you'll be sorry" for get been appropriate. No, wen im pain na most severe and wen im stood for di brink for being separated for di first taim for all eternity from im papa, wey concern whom na im thinking? im na thinking for di sins for di pipo wey had put di six-inch spikes through im hands and who had spit on top im face.

tell me, wetin kain love na dat? wia does it com from? wetin kain marriage would you get if you had dat kain love dat na totally consumed by di needs and di desires for pesin else ahead for ya own? wetin kain christians would we be if we had dat kain love for one anoda? we get so

vex by di trivial, but by contrast, jesus, for pass painful, unfair and unjust death imaginable prayed, "father, forgive dem, for dem no sabi wetin dem be doing." dat short, but poignant prayer na recorded for we for luke 23:34. It na di first for seven statements recorded from di lips for jesus while im hung on top dat cross.

dis seven statements are pass juss seven statements. Dem be laik di tab or di index pages on top a huge notebook, juss a word or two, but behind it dia na volume for informate waiting be understood. Dis sayings for di cross are laik di sign dat states, "power cable buried here." if you fit dig down juss a little bit, you would find dis unimaginable source for power waiting for ya life. Dis statements from di cross summarize who jesus na. If you fit dem fully, you'll di capsulated kpatakpata for evritin im say and evritin im do.

pass basic tok di cross de make na forgiveness, "father, forgive dem, for dem no sabi wetin dem be doing." yes, im na praying for dos who put di spikes for im hand and who led di mago mago trial, but im na praying juss as boku for dos di hebrew letter say would crucify am afresh.

i heard a tori for two fellows wey be on top a boat komot for di ocean and di boat went down, but dem managed to work dia way onto a life raft and dem floated for a few hours before being picked up by di coast guard. One for di two fellows on top dat life raft na tremendously grateful. Im na juss showering di captain for di boat wit praise, and im shook hands wit everi crew member. Im say, "thank you, thank you, thank you." di oda fellow na kain mellow. Im say, "well, you sabi tom, no mek such a big deal komot for it." wen dem get go di shore, di bin dey reporter na dia and im interviewed dat first fellow and im na crying wit tears for gratitude. Di oda fellow no wan be interviewed. Di newsman looked for di first fellow and say, "what's wit ya buddy?" and im say, "well, to tell you di true, im tinks im fit don get komot on top im own."

it's interesting na so?, wen you tink you fit comot on top ya own and you're no bi realli rescued? i tink di very first mark for a genuine christian, a true convert to christ, na one who knows im na a "goner," one who talks and behaves for a manner dat says, "i na on top mai way down, i na holding up di third finger, and i na wey concern to drown for mai sin. Jesus christ saved me. "

wetin's sad na, across dis land and across di world dem get hundreds for thousands for folks sidon for pews, smug and proud. Dem wouldn't tok it komot loud, but down deep dem be thinking, "i'm doing pretty gud on top mai own. I'm paddling dat boat right wella. " dem look dey for all di oda folks who aren't sidon for dos pews thinking, "i'm a pretty gud bobo, lai lai bin kill pesin, lai lai fit hit pesin, i no swear, i no high, i no chew, i no run wit dos who do. " dem be kain juss proud for how wella dem be paddling dia boat on top dia own.

i fit ask two kweshion to pesin and sabi a whole lot wey concern dia theology, sabi a whole lot wey concern wetin dem tink wey concern jesus and wey concern all spiritual tins.

1. "are you going to heaven?" dem'll either tok, "yes, no, or somewhere for di middle—not sure, shey so, no sabi," dat type tin. You fit find komot a lot.

2. To dos who ansa yes, "how u dey going to get dia?" wetin i've found ova 50 percent for di taim wen i've ask dat kweshion, di number one response na: "well, i've been wey concern as gud as most pipo i sabi. " you sabi wetin dem be say: "i'm paddling dat boat hard. " contrast dat go di apostle paul who say i am di chief for sinners. O wretched man wey i am, who go deliver me from dis bodi for death. "

paul tok say bicos im understood forgiveness. It's been say wey concern paul wey he only understood two tins: im knew wey he na lost, and im knew wey he na saved. Wen you read im epistles, im understanding comes through everi single line. Dat's wetin everi genuine christian knows, im or im knows dem de lost, dem de desperate and all for a sudden pesin threw dem a lifeline.

dey consider dis shikena prayer dat jesus uttered, "father, forgive dem, for dem sabi wetin dem do. " wetin does dat forgiveness entail? how does it apply to you and me? wetin are na characteristics?

1. Forgiveness dat jesus offered and prayed for for di cross na give.

"for di wages for sin na death, but di dash for god na eternal life for christ jesus awa lord. " (romans 6:23) do you hear di contrast dia? "for di wages," dat's di salary, "is death," that's di payment for sin "but di dash for god na eternal life for christ jesus awa lord. " di first tin we need to remember wey concern di forgiveness dat jesus offered for di cross and still offers from heaven's throne room na dat it's sontan wey we no earn. Im grace, im forgiveness na dash.

make me illustrate dat and show you why dat's important. Tink as e stand so and comot salvation, di cross or tins we dey consider spiritual, vertically give, wetin's pass precious earthly dash dat you get as e stand so? wetin be dat? some for you might tok na newborn pikin, dat's pass precious dash. Some for you would tok healthy family, dat's pass precious dash. Excluding salvation, di love for mai wife na di greatest dash i get. But if i de to tok, "you sabi honey, you've loved me now for 17 years and i realli throway salute dat. I wan pay you for dat love. I wish i had plenti kudi on top hand, but i get wey concern \$1,700. I fit find you wey concern \$100 a year for all di love you've give me up unto dis point. Make me find you \$1,700. We're going to work it into awa budget as e stand so. I'm going to pay you anoda \$25 a month from

here on top komot for di love dat you're dey give me. Now wetin do you tink im would do?

wella, first for all, im would tink na joke. I mean im'd laff, "what u dey doing—come on top?" then if i pressed di wahala and say, "no, no, dis na wetin i realli wan do. I wan pay you for dat dash. " im would look for me laik i'm absolutely absurd. Folks, dat na absurd bicos a dash na no bi sontin you fit buy. It's no bi sontin you fit earn. If you fit, it's no bi a dash; it becomes a salary, a wage.

read romans 6:23 again, "for di wages. " di salary na attached to sin, it na death, "but di dash for god na eternal life through jesus christ. " i'm amazed for how many millions for pipo reverse dos two. Dem tink say di lostness deh get, di spiritual death dem be going to kpai, na juss a bad break or juss di fickle, capriciousness for a funny god and say di salvation dem be going to don, dem be earning day by day sake of how gud dem be. Dem've get it exactly reversed. Di tin we're earning na hell through everi sin we commit. Di dash na forgiveness.

wetin do you do wen you receive a dash? you tok, "thank you" and you act for gratitude. Di bigger di dash, di longer and di plenti you act for gratitude. By attempting to pay for a dash:

a. You insult di giver. God na insulted if we try to pay for di dash for forgiveness bicos we're reducing am go hireling. We reduce am go sales clerk. We ashawo am by trying to barter love, and god no go be reduced go dat. Im reacts strongly go dat and im always don. For fact, dat's wetin angered jesus so boku wey concern di pharisees. Dem think dem de paying for dia salvation. Dem de earning it. Some pipo tink dat today.

dia na world for difference between attainment and atonement.

Attainment na sontin you work to achieve. Atonement na sontin dat na give to you. Di word atonement way to pay a debt dat one na no fit to pay for imself. Jesus offered di atonement. God, di pikin, knows we no fit comot for awa own mess. So, im offered imself as per sacrifice and on top dat cross im pleads: "father, forgive dem, for dem sabi no bi wetin dem do. "

oh, but di human spirit, it juss wan be saved by attainment. Do you sabi why? bicos we live for a sin-stained world wen no deh operate by atonement, it operates by attainment. We sabi di answers to dis old slogans though, "there ain't no such tin as per awoof wetin? lunch?" and "look komot for number one!" sure, we all sabi dos, dat's di way di world operates, so we wan save ourselves by awa own gud work. Di kweshion i ask pesin who don dat philosophy na how many gud work does it take then be saved? wetin's di quota? wetin's di standard? you insult di giver wen you try to pay for di dash.

b. You create a business relationship. If you tok, "here, you gi me dis, i'll find you dat. " dat's an exchange, a swap, a trade, a business transaction. Wen you try to pay back god's dash, you reduce a papa/child relationship to an employer/employee relationship, and dat na so short de kain god wan.

make me illustrate dat. Each month i mek a mortgage payment to pesin for chicago wey i've lai lai seen. Im or im get lai lai seen me. Now do we get a relationship? yes. Does im send if i've get appendicitis? or if mai marriage starts to get for gbege? no! all dem send wey concern na getting dia's. Na relationship, but it's shallow. It's juss on top paper. If i com go contractual agreement you get with god, "now i'll do dis, you provide me wit heaven," then i'm making a business relationship wit god. Im wan be mai papa, no bi mai employer. Im wan love me and bathe me and forgive me laik a perfect pallee. Dat's wetin im wan.

c. When you try to pay for a dash, it reveals ya own misunderstanding. Make you juss no get di concept. Forgiveness na give.

2. Forgiveness dat jesus pleaded for and offered na radical.

it na radical, extreme and extraordinary. Di dash na radical substitution. "for god make am who had no sin be sin for awa sakes, make for am we might become di righteousness for god. " (2 corinthians 5:21) dat's mai favorite verse for di bible bicos dat tells wetin di cross na all wey concern. Wey be di am for 2 corinthians 5:21? you sabi who it na. It's jesus, shikena. make's tok it again putting jesus for for am. "for god make jesus who had no sin be sin for awa sakes, make for jesus we might become di righteousness for god. "

become illustration make's tok you de standing for judgment one day. God says "how many sins do you commit?" you reply wit bowed head, "oh no bi many. Lord. " im says, "well, tink real hard. " "well, dia na dat one taim i no help di lady across di street. Then dia na anoda taim, i no honor mai papa and mama laik i suppose. And i ..." im say "let's juss look for di books. " di book for ya life na opened, it na stained wit sin. Evritin you do or say na recorded dia, ya gud deeds kukuma as ya sins. You realli no wan pesin looking for it. Suddenly jesus walks up and stands beside you clean and white as snow. Remember, god make am who had no sin be sin make for am, we might become di righteousness for god. Do you wan sabi christian how you're going to look before di papa for di judgment day? unless jesus don cleansed you by im blood and don substituted im life for yours, it go de wor wor and no bi welcomed. If im blood don cleansed you and you remain for am, jesus go tanda dia holding all ya sins. It na radical substitution.

3. The forgiveness na arranged.

it no bi accidental or happenstance; it na part for an eternal plan. Wen i na growing up, i heard dis illustration bin use a lot for di cross. Maybe

you've heard it. Di tori na for a fellow who operated a mechanical bridge dat allowed trains to go across di bridge, but would turn for some kain times so ships fit pass by for di river below. One taim di bridge na turn, but all for a sudden word com and im fit hear a train come. And im na going to need to shikena! dat bridge back for line make passenger fit mek it across and no bi be destroyed. But di wahala na dat day im had brought im little three-year-old pikin to work. Di pikin had get away from am and im looked for junior and im na down for di mechanism for di bridge, for di gears itself, di little boi na playing for di gears and now wit juss minutes, im didn't don taim to go down and get di boi and still close di bridge. Im had di choice for saving di train and hundreds for passengers or throwing di switch and crushing im pikin. Anguished by dat decision, im threw di switch. Awa god find im pikin for di cross so all who would come am fit be forgiven and saved.

now that's a powerful illustration, but there's one main part for it that's no bi right for all. It's inaccurate. Sight if you fit figure komot wia di inaccuracy na. "men for israel, hear dis, jesus for nazareth na a man accredited by god to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which god do among you through am, as you yourselves sabi. Dis man na handed ova to you by god's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, wit di help for wicked men, put am to death by nailing am go di cross." (acts 2:22-23)

what's di fallacy for di illustration dat i've heard all mai life? here it na. Di cross, unlike di engineer sidon up for di plant, di cross no bi a knee-jerk reaction by some ecclesiastical engineer who see di world spinning komot for control. Di cross na part for di original blueprint.

di plan na for di work di minute dat eve's teeth sank into di fruit. Na im dia before wen jesus com to dis earth, na born or crucified. Di shadow for di cross com nearer wit everi step im took.

you don ever stop to tink dat jesus na di one who put life into di seed dat became di tree from where im cross would be hewed? jesus na di

one who put di iron ore for di earth from where di spikes would be smelted? jesus na di one who breathed life into di embryo dat would be named judas for im mama's womb, who would com komot and betray am? (colossians 1:15-16)

wetin be it laik to plan ya own execution? i no sabi, i no get any idea, but it no bi an accident. I know say im knew from di beginning say di only way im bride fit be dressed for white and live forever for heaven na if im imsef would kpai for am sins. Folks, knowing wey i betta why im fit look down from dat cross having always sabi im na going to hang dia and tok: "father, forgive dem, for dem no sabi wetin dem be doing. " you sight di love dat offered dat prayer com from di throne room for heaven wia love don na very we you from. Di cross and di forgiveness de no accident. Dem de arranged.

4. Forgiveness na continuous.

i'll tell you sontin interesting wey concern dis one sentence prayer from jesus: "father, forgive dem, for dem no sabi wetin dem be doing. " di imperfect tense for di verb na bin use, indicating a repeated action for di past tense. Wella for oda words, plenti literally, di translation na jesus kept say, "father, forgive dem, for dem sabi no bi wetin dem do. " you fit see say? i fit sight am muttering it all di way through di six hours between each for di statements: "father, forgive dem, for dem no sabi wetin dem be doing. "

how appropriate bicos though im sacrifice na once and for all, di forgiveness stemming from dat cross na perpetual. Hebrews 9:26 says, "if we waaka christians for di lait as im na for di lait, we get fellowship one wit anoda, and di blood for jesus cleanses we from all sin. " (1 john 1:7) i love dat word "all", no you? a little bitty word, but it way so much—cleanses we from all sin—all awa sin before we com to christ for baptism, all awa sins afta if we waaka for di lait.

two verses later "if we confess awa sins, im na faithful and juss and to forgive we awa sins and to cleanse we from all unrighteousness. " (1 john 1:9) then two verses john says, "my little pikin,

i write dis tins to you make you no go sin. But if pesin does sin. we get jesus christ, di righteous, become dey support for awa sins. " (1 john 2:1) i wan you to sight as per christian, if we are willing to waaka for di love and di go for jesus, no bi for rebellion to im go, if nurturing sin, trying to hide it for some closet away from god, but instead openly confessing awa shortcomings and mistakes, then we are forgiven continuously. We are being washed everyday everyday so wey we are clean and dey white. Then god lets me for.

5. Forgiveness na exemplary, a pattern be imitated. Jesus empowers we to forgive odas dey we. "be kind and compassionate to one anoda, forgiving each oda, juss as for christ god forgave you. " (ephesians 4:32) di main main to living a forgiving life toward oda pipo na di realization for ya own forgiveness stemming from dat cross. Forgiving pipo are forgiven pipo. Dem get no exceptions.

di following acrostic fit help you remember god's dash for im grace.

g-iven

r-adical

a-rranged

c-ontinuous

e-xemplary

we accept dat dash wen we com go dat cross. Scripture tells we how. God no de mek we climb mountains or run a marathon. Wetin im says to we na simply, i wan you to put ya trust for christ, com go dat cross for

faith, believe say jesus, god for di flesh, kpai on top dat cross for you,
confess dis belief before men, kpai to ya sins and be buried wit am for
water baptism for which taim i, god, go find you new life awoof from sin
having been washed clean by di blood for christ. Amazing grace lesson
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