



The Journey
Week of 04.18.10

The Big Shock

By Terrilynn Obrock

Karla Tucker and her boyfriend bludgeoned a couple to death with a pickax. Karla Tucker was sentenced to die and was the first woman executed in the state of Texas. She became famous not because of the crime she committed, but because of her acceptance of Jesus Christ a few months after being sent to jail. Until she was put to death she ministered to others in the prison. She was successful in bringing several to faith in God and in bringing about a change in their lives. In a final interview with Larry King, Karla Tucker said, “. . . when you have done something that I have done, like what I have done, and you have been forgiven for it, and you’re loved, that has a way of so changing you. I know what forgiveness is, even when I did something so horrible. I know that because God forgave me and I accepted what Jesus did on the cross. When I leave here, I am going to be with him.”

One of the hardest concepts of Christianity is the concept of forgiveness. How can someone who has done such a heinous crime be forgiven and spend eternity with God? Yet, the Bible is full of stories of God’s forgiveness. Luke tells the story of the sinful woman who anointed Jesus’ feet with her tears in Luke 7: 36 – 50. The woman accused of adultery by the Pharisees was forgiven by Jesus in John 8:3 – 11. David, who committed murder and adultery, writes in Psalm 32:5, “Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.”

The concept of forgiveness is also one of the most beautiful parts of Christianity. God’s forgiveness of our sins is part of what makes Christianity different from other religious faiths. It is what gives us hope for the future. It is what gives us a new day every morning to start over. Sanctus Real has a wonderful song entitled “Forgiven”.

“In this life I know what I’ve been
But here in your arms I know what I am

I’m forgiven
I’m forgiven
And I don’t have to carry the weight of who I’ve been
Cause I’m forgiven”

Do you carry the weight of who you’ve been? Have you confessed your sins to the Father and asked for his forgiveness? Are you forgiven?

“The dying Jesus is the evidence of God’s anger toward sin; but the living Jesus is the proof of God’s love and forgiveness.”

~ Lorenz Eifert

Important Action Steps related to this series: we're hoping that all Heartlanders will join us for the "God of This City" Worship Event Wednesday April 28. Click [here](#) for details.

We really need folks to roll up their sleeves with us at our annual "What If The Church" Serve Day on Saturday, May 1st!

1. You must sign up and register to serve before April 28th and may do so by clicking [here](#). There's a variety of locations, projects, and skill levels for you (*and your family*) to choose from. So, if you can pick up a rake, you can serve. It will be a blast!

2. To stretch the dollars that every church has committed towards the Serve Day, we are also hoping for both cash and material donations. To make a cash donation, click [here](#) and be sure to read the instructions before taking the next step. When you get to step 2 on "Parish Pay" be sure to enter your donation in the "What If The Church" box. To donate materials for the sites, email [Tom Page](#).

3. We still need leaders for various projects. Please email [Cynthia](#) here to step up b/c we need ya!

(You are encouraged to use the SOAP – Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer Method for a guide. Click [here](#) for an example SOAP journal entry. Page numbers refer to "The Story of God" Bible available for free at the Welcome Center in our atrium.)

monday, 04.19.10

Read: [Luke 15:1-2; 11-24](#) (pg. 716)

tuesday, 04.20.10

Read: [Luke 15:1-2; 3-7](#) (pg. 716)

wednesday, 04.21.10

Read: [Luke 15:1-2; 8-10](#) (pg. 716)

thursday, 04.22.10

Read: [Luke 15](#) (pg. 716)

friday, 04.23.10

Read: [Romans 7:7 – 8:4 \(pg. 772-773\), 8:38-39](#) (pg. 774)

If you don't already receive weekly email notification about The Journey, click [here](#) to sign up.

grow (resources to help you in your study)

- **Sunday's Sermon:** Click [here](#) for podcast, or here for [video](#)
- **films:** to watch all of HCC'S "Rescue" films, click [here](#)
- book: [The Prodigal God](#), by Timothy Keller
- book: [Return of the Prodigal Son](#) by Henri Nouwen

go (action steps)

- **SERVE:** go to www.whatifthechurch.net to register and join us!
- **prayer?** Please send us an email by clicking [here](#)
- **care?** Do you need to talk with someone? Please call us at 913.341.5820 ext. 330
- **go**—Sign up to serve: email Lisa Zulke by clicking [here](#)
- **grow**—Join a small group, a 1:1 spiritual mentorship, or find about the many other [ways to grow](#)
- **give**—click [here](#) to make an online gift to Heartland and learn how you can set up recurring gifts

Small Group/ 1:1 Question Samplers:

1. In your opinion, what is the biggest shock of all in the story of the prodigal son?
2. Do you really believe that your Heavenly Father has extravagantly and recklessly spent everything He owned for you?
3. Between the pig's trough and the Father's embrace, describe where you are right now in your life.

“God of This City” Worship Event Details:

WHAT: A chance to worship together with all of this year's "What if the Church" churches/

WHEN: Wednesday, April 28, 6:30 pm

WHERE: South Lawn of the Kansas City Convention Center
(at 16th Street & Wyandotte, in downtown KCMO) Click here for a [map](#).

DIRECTIONS: Directions, parking information, and more available by clicking [here](#).