

I can't forgive myself

To know the forgiveness of Jesus is the most wonderful thing that can happen to us.

Take a moment and look back! There may be some things that we would rather forget but in unguarded moments the memory surfaces. We quickly push it away perhaps with the thought, how could I have been so stupid. Unfortunately we were.

Perhaps we are like a friend of ours. We made a nostalgic visit back to our old college. It has been sold and turned into flats. She sighed as she looked from the outside at what had been the library, the chapel and dining room, and said, "I wish I could live life over again and make a better go of it". There was silence. We all felt the same. We all need forgiveness.

A number of years ago two of us were travelling around the country in a caravan staying in a place for a few weeks and then moving on. The same sermon could be used on innumerable occasions! One trusted favourite was about the skeleton in the cupboard! Many times someone quietly knocked on the caravan door, came inside and out came the hidden past. We were able to offer forgiveness in the name of the Lord Jesus. No more guilt, no more fear.

There was a problem sometimes. Some said honestly, "I know that Jesus forgives me but I can't forgive myself". Perhaps someone reading this feels exactly that. Often behind such a comment is pride. Moreover it is a subtle, hidden pride. We can't accept that we have fallen in such a way. We are, we think, a much better person than that. The pride that is making it difficult for us to forgive ourselves also needs to be forgiven by God and only then will the happiness of saving grace fill our hearts.

Moreover, in that sentence, "I can't forgive myself" there is an omniscient, "I". It isn't the Lord who is King of my heart, in this instance, I am. We are listening to self. We don't have to listen to the voice of self. We can turn and listen to the voice of Jesus, "Friend, your sins are forgiven". Luke 5:7. Then he is truly King of our hearts. The words of the gospel will ring in our hearts; the one who has been forgiven much loves Jesus greatly.



Who is on the throne
of your heart?