



Dear Crossroads Family,

On September 6, 2018, 26-year-old Botham Jean was shot and killed inside his own apartment in Dallas, Texas, by off-duty Dallas police officer Amber Guyger. The shooting sparked widespread national outrage, intense debates over police accountability, and ultimately led to a landmark murder conviction.

On that evening, Amber Guyger—a 30-year-old patrol officer with the Dallas Police Department—was returning home after completing a 13.5-hour shift. Both Guyger and Jean lived in the same apartment complex, located near downtown Dallas. Guyger parked her car on the garage's 4th floor instead of the 3rd floor where her unit was located. She walked down the hallway to Apt. 1478 (Jean's unit). According to her, she believed she was at her own apartment directly below, Apt. 1378. Jean was sitting on his couch eating ice cream and watching television.

Due to a slightly misaligned electronic door latch mechanism, Jean's front door had not fully latched shut and was slightly ajar. According to Guyger, when she inserted her electronic key fob, the door pushed open. In the dark room, she saw a figure. Believing an intruder was inside her home, she drew her service weapon and fired twice, hitting Botham Jean once in the chest. Realizing her error after looking around the room, Guyger called 911. First responders transported Jean to Baylor University Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

Guyger was arrested three days later by the Texas Rangers and was indicted for murder by a Dallas County grand jury. On October 1, 2019, she was found guilty of murder. She was sentenced to 10 years in state prison. But something unexpected happened during the sentencing phase. Botham Jean's younger brother, Brandt Jean, famously offered Guyger forgiveness from the witness stand and asked the judge if he could embrace her in a moment that gained worldwide attention. You can watch that amazing moment of forgiveness displayed in this 4 minute video:

https://video.wixstatic.com/video/5d12d0_8b535d40919948d2920cb834db1ed300/480p/mp4/file.mp4

Unexpected forgiveness. The younger brother of the victim of a shooting expressed love and forgiveness to the person responsible for his brother's death and encouraged her to give her life to Christ. Amber Guyger was clearly overwhelmed with this expression of grace and forgiveness as she and the victim's brother embraced in the courtroom.

Unexpected forgiveness. That is exactly what we experience through the cross of Jesus. **1 Peter 2:24** say, "'He himself bore our sins' in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; 'by his wounds you have been healed.'" In other words, because of our sin, we are responsible for the death of Jesus. God the Father did not wish harm for us but instead offered forgiveness. Unexpected forgiveness.

Just as Brandt Jean offered forgiveness, not because of anything Officer Guyger offered in return, but because of who he was in Christ, our God offers forgiveness to us, not because of anything we can offer Him in return, but because of who He is. Let's talk about the amazing nature of our God that results in our forgiveness this

Sunday. My sermon is entitled, “Why God Forgives.” (Sermon notes are included below.) I hope you will be present to experience His presence and to come to understand more deeply this important Biblical truth.

See you Sunday!

Love,
Bro. Doug

Why God Forgives
Psalm 103:1-13

Psalm 103:1-13 reveals the relentless, _____ compassion of God for His children. In it, David praises the Lord for God’s blessings bestowed on His people. He was aware of the special position Israel held among the nations from verses like **Exod. 19:5** and **Deut. 7:6**. According to the New Testament, because you are _____, you are a part of God’s _____ people—His special possession—and the same benefits that He promised to His Old Testament people now apply to your _____ and _____.

The first blessing that is clearly uppermost in David’s mind is the fact that the Lord “_____ all your iniquity.” It is the removal of guilt that clears the _____ that separates humanity from God, making all subsequent gifts possible.

The Psalm also praises the _____ of God’s forgiveness of His people. He has removed our transgressions from us “as far as the east is from the west.” The Scripture says that when God forgives, He separates our sin that _____ distance from us. It’s _____.

But the most striking and most praiseworthy thing about God’s forgiveness is the _____ of His forgiveness of us. It is that the Lord is _____ and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in _____. His forgiveness stems from His fatherly compassion—His _____ prompts His forgiveness.

Remember how the Psalm began? David reminds his own _____ to bless the Lord and to forget not His benefits. Why? It is easy for us to lose _____ in the extent of God’s forgiveness of our sins and lose _____ of the promised benefits because, though we are forgiven time and again, it seems it is in our nature to _____. So, we ask, “Why, God, would You keep forgiving me when I sin and sin again?”

His answer would always be the same: “Why should I allow your nature to _____? So, as long as I’m living, _____.”

A Few Announcements:

The Lord's Supper will be observed in the Worship Service this Sunday, October 25. If you will be watching the service online, please have your elements ready so that you can participate in this special time of the service.

The Quarterly Business Meeting is scheduled for next Sunday, November 1, at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Agendas are available in the foyer.

Women of Prayer Luncheon will be on Monday, October 26, 11:00 am-1:00 pm at Gail Anderson’s home (7818 Mary Carolyn St.). The guest speaker is Merry Hill, speaking on “Beautifully Broken.” Please bring a salad or dessert. All ladies are invited! RSVP to Gail at 210.863.5254.

Crossroads Annual Harvest Fest is scheduled for Saturday, October 31, from 4:00-7:00 pm. More candy is needed! Thank you for all your donations!

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED! for Trunk-or-Treat participants and other needs for Harvest Fest. See flyer in the bulletin for specific needs and sign up in the foyer on Sunday or call the church office. If you cannot help during the event, there are many things to do before and after the event. Many volunteers are needed to make this community outreach a success!

Crossroads Monthly Food & Diaper Drive is next Sunday, November 1. A Shopping Wish List is included on the website (cbcsa.net) to help guide your purchases. Please be sure to check expiration dates.

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