INTRODUCTION - I have heard people say, "God cannot forgive me because my sins are too horrible, too many, and committed for too long a time."

The Bible message is one of forgiveness and hope:

(2 Chronicles 7:14) "... and will forgive their sin ... "
(Psalm 84:11) "the Lord will give grace and glory"
(Psalm 86:8) "and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy"
(Matthew 1:21) "for He will save His people from their sins"
(Hebrews 7:25) "He is also able to save to the utter-most those ... "

Yes! God can, did, and will forgive us of all sin.

- 1. A THIEF (Luke 23:39-43) "... and Jesus said to him, Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."
- 2. ROMAN SOLDIERS WHO CRUCIFIED THE CHRIST (Matthew 27:27-31) Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus ... and led His away to be crucified." (Luke 23:33-34) "And when they came to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him ... Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- 3. DEVOUT JEWS WHO ASSISTED IN THE MURDER OF THE MESSIAH
 - (Matthew 27:1-2) "all the chief priests and elders ... bound Him, and they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontus Pilate the governor." Pilate finds no fault in Him. (v21-22) "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ? They all said to him, Let Him be crucified." And Jesus is crucified, buried, resurrected the third day. 40 days later He ascends to the Father, and 10 days later is the Day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:1, v5) "there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men ..." (v22-24) "Men of Israel, hear these words, Jesus of Nazareth ... you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death ..."
 - (v36-41) "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins ... "
- 4. A WOMAN WITH MANY SINS (Luke 7:47) "her sins, which are many, are forgiven"
- 5. AN ADULTEROUS WOMAN (John 8:3-11) "Jesus said to her, Neither do I condemn you"
- 6. THE UNRIGHTEOUS (1 Corinthians 6:9-11) "... And such were some of you, but you were washed, sanctified, justified in the name of the Lord Jesus ..."
- 7. SINNERS (Romans 5:8-9) (1 Timothy 1:12-16) "I was formerly a blasphemer, persecutor, an insolent man, but I obtained mercy ... chief of sinners ... I obtained mercy."

CLOSE: The message of salvation is called the "gospel" because it is "good news."