

# The Seven Last Sayings of Christ on the Cross

## Various Scriptures

### Introduction:

1. The last words of a dying person are listened to very closely
2. A person's closing words may reveal his pain and agony
3. Some utter sentiments that disclose their values, priorities and innermost thoughts
  - a. P.T. Barnum – “How were the receipts today at Madison Square Garden?”
  - b. Humphrey Bogart – “I should never have switched from Scotch to Martinis.”
  - c. Joan Crawford, filled with anger when her maid began to pray out loud said, “Don't you dare ask God to help me!”
  - d. Louis Mayer, the film producer said, “Nothing matters.”
  - e. Karl Marx – “Go on, get out. Last words are for fools who haven't said enough already.”
4. Today we want to look at the seven last sayings of Christ on the cross
  - a. The first three sayings were spoken between 9 am and noon
  - b. The last four sayings were spoken between noon and 3 pm.

### **I. The Word of Forgiveness – Lu 23:34**

**34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.**

#### **A. We See Our Savior in the Attitude of Prayer**

1. His ministry opened with prayer
2. Here we see it closing with prayer
3. He prayed for others, even sinners, in his last hours
4. No one is beyond the reach of prayer

#### **B. We See the Fulfillment of Prophecy – Isa 53:12**

**Isa 53:12 ... he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

1. Here is our Savior praying for those who crucified Him
2. The tense here is continuous – he kept praying for them
  - a) *He prayed when they drove the nails in His hands*
  - b) *He prayed when they drove the nail in His feet*
  - c) *He prayed when they gambled for His clothing*
  - d) *He prayed when they mocked and ridiculed Him*
3. He didn't pray – “Father, judge them.”
4. He didn't pray – “Father, avenge me.”

### **C. See the Triumph of Redeeming Love – “Then”**

1. After man had done his worst
2. After the vileness of the human heart had been displayed
3. After being subjected to unspeakable shame, suffering, excruciating pain, being hated, despised and rejected, then...

### **D. See Here the Blindness of the Human Heart**

1. “They know not what they do”
2. They were ignorant of the enormity of their crime
3. They should have known what they were doing
  - a) *Prophecy identified Christ*
  - b) *His teaching identified Him – Jn 7:46*
  - c) *His perfect life identified Him*

### **E. Jesus Here Exemplified His Own Teaching – Mt 5:44**

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

1. He taught others to “pray for those who despitefully use you”
2. Now we see Him practicing what He preached

## **II. The Word of Salvation – Lu 23:39-43**

39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

### **A. See Here a Case of Spiritual Illumination**

1. Both of the criminals mocked Jesus
2. Something happened to one criminal
3. He rebuked his fellow thief vs 40
4. He realized that he would face God – vs 40
5. He believed in capital punishment – vs 41
6. He saw his own sinfulness
7. He saw Christ’s sinless life – vs 41
8. He confessed Christ’s deity
9. He believed in Christ’s saviorhood
10. He believed in Christ’s kingship

### **B. Here We See a Representative Sinner**

1. There was no essential different between the two thieves
2. Both had reviled Jesus - Matt 27:41-44
3. No one is saved till he takes the place of a lost sinner before the Lord
4. In society, some trust Christ as Savior and some reject Christ and we see both here

### **C. Even on the Cross, Christ was Still Saving Others**

1. He was ready and able to save the dying thief
2. He accepts all who will come to Him
3. He didn't make the thief do some good works
4. Notice that there is no baptism here
5. No mention of purgatory here

## **III. The Word of Affection – Jn 19:26**

26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

### **A. Jesus Took Time to Care for His Mother**

1. He was dying, but He cared for His mother
2. He calls her “woman” and not “mother”
3. She is not prominent in the gospels
4. An arrow of sorrow pierced Mary's heart
5. Jesus Died as the “Son of God” Not “Son of Mary”

### **B. Imagine What Mary Was Going Through – Lu 2:34-35**

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; 35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

1. How she suffered seeing her son falsely accused
2. He was unjustly tried and now was horribly dying
3. Mary would lose a Son but she would gain a Savior

### **C. For John, the Cross was a Place of Responsibility**

1. He was chosen to care for Mary
2. John became a substitute for “the Substitute”
3. The cross meant duty for John and it means duty for us

#### **IV. The Word of Anguish – Matt 27:44-49**

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? 47 Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. 48 And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. 49 The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

##### **A. A Great Mystery - The Darkness**

1. Darkness of Sympathy
2. Isaac Watts wrote –  
Well might the son in darkness hide  
And shut his glories in;  
When Christ the mighty maker died  
For man the creature's sin.
3. Darkness of Solemnity
  - a) *This is the most solemn moment in history*
  - b) *God sent 3 days of darkness before the lamb was killed and here He sends 3 hours of darkness*
4. Darkness of Secrecy
  - a) *As though God put a curtain around the cross*
  - b) *Jesus is accomplishing the great work of redemption*

##### **B. A Greater Mystery – God Turns His Back on Jesus**

1. This is a lonely scene
  - a) *The crowds left Jesus*
  - b) *Even his disciples are gone now*
  - c) *Then the heavenly Father turned his back on the Son*
2. See the Absolute Holiness and Inflexible Justice of God
  - a) *During his ministry, Jesus suffered from man*
  - b) *At the beginning of his ministry Jesus suffered from Satan*
  - c) *Now we see Jesus suffering at the hand of His Father*
  - d) *Jesus was made sin for us and God cannot look on sin*
3. See the Awfulness of Sin and the Character of Its Wages
  - a) *Sin must be paid for*
  - b) *Jesus paid the wages of sin for His people*
  - c) *Up to this point, Jesus never asked "Why?"*
4. See the Doom of Those Who Never Repent
  - a) *"Depart from me into everlasting punishment"*
  - b) *Eternal separation from God*

## **V. The Word of Suffering – Jn 19:28**

28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

### **A. Again We See Prophecy Fulfilled – Ps 69:21**

21 They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

1. The first three statements on the cross focused on others
  - a) *His enemies*
  - b) *The thief*
  - c) *John and Mary*
2. The last three sayings focused on Himself
  - a) *“I thirst” – His body*
  - b) *“It is finished” – His soul*
  - c) *“His spirit” – “Into your hands I commit my spirit”*

### **B. See More Evidence for the Humanity of Christ**

1. Lu 2:7 – Born in a manger
2. Lu 2:52 – Increased in wisdom and stature
3. Lu 2:46 – He asked questions
4. Jn 4:6 – He was weary in body
5. Matt 4:2 - He was hungry
6. Mk 4:38 – He slept
7. Mk 6:6 – He marveled
8. Jn 11:35 – He wept
9. Mk 1:35 – He prayed
10. Lu 10:21 – He rejoiced
11. Jn 11:33 – He groaned
12. Here – He is thirsty

### **C. See the Savior’s Deep Reverence for the Scriptures**

“That the Scripture might be fulfilled”

### **D. See the Savior’s Submission to the Will of the Father**

1. Jesus made all the water that in on the earth
2. Jesus made water come out of the rock when Moses hit it
3. Yet He didn’t satisfy Himself here
4. He could have made clouds to drench Himself with water

### **E. Here We See the Expression of a Universal Need**

1. Natural men are thirsting for something
2. Man has a basic spiritual thirst that natural things can’t satisfy
3. Reject Christ and your cry forever will be “I thirst”

## **VI. The Word of Victory – Jn 19:30**

30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

### **A. See the Completion of His Sufferings**

1. Speaking to Nicodemus, Jesus spoke of being lifted up
2. When James and John spoke to Jesus of sitting next to Him in His kingdom, Jesus spoke of a “cup” and a “baptism”
3. When Peter confessed Christ, Jesus taught the disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things

### **B. Here We See the Goal of the Incarnation**

1. Even when He was a boy, “His Father’s business” was on His mind
2. Jesus spoke of the works which the Father had given Him to finish  
Joh 5:36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

### **C. Here We See the Accomplishment of the Atonement**

1. Jesus had come to seek and to save the lost
2. He didn’t say “It is half-finished” or “It is nearly finished”
3. We have a finished salvation

## **VII. The Word of Contentment – Lu 23:46**

46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

### **A. Prophecy Fulfilled Here – Ps 31:5**

5 Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

1. The Son is back in communion with the Father
2. See the perfect yieldedness of Christ to the heavenly Father

### **B. See a Great Contrast**

1. Jesus had been in the hands of wicked men
  - a) They took full advantage of their opportunity
  - b) They fully vented their hatred on Him
2. Now He commends Himself to the hands of God
  - a) Soon the Father will raise Him from the dead
  - b) 40 days later Jesus will ascend to heaven

Conclusion:

1. This culminated with a resurrection
2. Up from the grave He arose with a mighty triumph over his foes.

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