

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

INTRODUCTION:

These statements that Jesus made from the cross have been treasured by all who have followed Him as Lord. They demonstrate both His humanity and divinity. They also capture the last moments of all that Jesus went through to gain our forgiveness: when someone is dying or leaving us, his or her last words are very important.

1. "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34) *Jesus asks God to forgive the people who were putting Him to death. Jewish leaders, Roman politicians, and Soldiers, Bystanders – and God answered that prayer by opening up the way of Salvation even to Jesus murders, The Roman Centurion and Soldiers who witnessed the crucifixion said, "Surely He was the Son of God, (Matt. 27:54). Soon many Priests were converted to the Christian Faith (Acts 6:7). Because we are all sinners, we all played a part in putting Jesus to death. The Gospel the good news is that God is gracious. He will forgive us and give us new life in His Son.*
2. "I tell you the truth you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43) *Our lives will be much more useful and fulfilling if we turn to God early but even those who repent at the very last moment will be with God in paradise.*
3. Speaking to John and Mary, "Dear woman here is your son: here is your mother" (John 19:26,27) *Even while dying on the cross, Jesus was concerned about his family, He instructed John to care for Mary, Jesus mother, our families are precious gifts from God, and we should value and care for them under all circumstances.*
4. "My God, My God! why have you forsaken me" (Matt. 27:46) (Mk. 15:34) *Jesus did not ask this question in surprise or despair. He was quoting the first line of (Psalms 22), the whole Psalm is prophecy expressing the deep agony of the Messiah's death for the worlds sin. Jesus knew that he would be temporarily separated from God the moment He took upon Himself the sins of the world. This separation was what He had dreaded as he prayed in Gethsemane. The physical agony was horrible, but the spiritual alienation from God was the ultimate torture.*

5. *"I am thirsty" (Jn. 19:28)*
6. *"It is finished" (Jn. 19:30) Until this time, a complicated system of sacrifices had (cover up) atoned for sins. Sin separates people from God, and only through the sacrifice of an animal, a substitute, could people be forgiven and become clean before God, but people sin continually, so frequent sacrifices were required, Jesus however became the final and ultimate sacrifice for sin. The word "finished" is the same as "paid in full". Jesus came to finish God's work of salvation see (Jn. 4:34, 17:4)*
7. *"Father into your hand I commit my Spirit" (Luke 23:46) Also see (Ps. 31:5) We say we have faith in God, but so we really trust him. David's words, "Into your hands I commit my spirit", convey his complete trust in God. Jesus used this phrase as he was dying on the cross showing His absolute dependence on God the Father (Luke 23:46) Stephen reported these words as he was being stoned to death (Acts 7:59) confident that in death He was simply passing from God's earthly care to God's eternal care.
Praise God!*