

Living Word Fellowship Church

At the Cross

The Seven Last Words of Jesus

Luke 23vs34, 43, 46, John 19vs27, 28, 30, Matt 27vs46

1. But Jesus was saying, "***Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.***" And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. (Luke 23:34-35). -- **FORGIVENESS**

a) Before Christ spoke these words the following took place:

- ☐ The gave Christ wine (myrrh) but after tasting it He refused to drink it (Mt. 27:34). This is before He was crucified.
- ☐ He was crucified on the 3rd hour (Mark 15:25).
- ☐ Pilate wrote (John 19:19) a sign above His head "This is Jesus the King of the Jews." (Mt. 27:37).

b) 23:32-43. Luke did not state, as did Matthew and John, how the events of Jesus' death fulfilled Old Testament Scriptures. Luke's purpose, instead, was to show that Jesus was the forgiving Messiah even as He died. Jesus asked the Father to forgive those who were crucifying Him (v. 34), and He forgave one of the men sentenced to die with Him (v. 43). Even in death Jesus had power to make people right with God. And yet the rulers ... sneered (v. 35) the soldiers ... mocked (vv. 36-37), and one of the criminals crucified with Him insulted Him (v. 39).¹

2. And He said to him, "***Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.***" (Luke 23:43) – **ASSURANCE**

a) Before Christ spoke these words the following took place:

- ☐ After being crucified they divided His garments and cast lots for them (Mt. 27:35-36). They divided the garments into 4 parts 'now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece.' (John 15:23-25).
- ☐ Jesus acknowledges His mother to John (John 15:25b-27).

3. Then He said to the disciple, "***Behold, your mother!***" From that hour the disciple took her into his own household. (John 19:27) – **RESPONSIBILITY.**

a) 19:25-27. In stark contrast with the cruelty and indifference of the soldiers, a group of four women watched with love and grief. The anguish of Jesus' mother fulfilled a prophecy of Simeon: "A sword will pierce your own soul too" (Luke 2:35). Seeing her sorrow Jesus honored His mother by consigning her into the care of John, the beloved disciple. His brothers and sisters being in Galilee, were not in a position to care for or comfort her. The words of Jesus to Mary and the beloved disciple were His third saying from the cross (the first one recorded by John). In the other Gospels Jesus had already given a respite to the Roman executioners (Luke 23:24) and a pardon to one thief (Luke 23:42-43).²

¹ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1985). *Vol. 2: The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (262). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1985). *Vol. 2: The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (339–340). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

4. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "**ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?**" that is, "**MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?**" (Matt 27:46-47) – **INTENSITY**.

a) Before Christ spoke these words the following took place:

- ☐ The two robbers, the chief priest, scribes and elders mock Him and then one of the robbers decided to ask for forgiveness (Mt. 27:38-44).
- ☐ 'Darkness fell on the whole land' from the 6th to the 9th hour.

5. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, ^{*} said, "**I am thirsty.**" (John 19:28) - **IDENTITY**

a) I thirst. The physical need of the sufferer asserted itself, the only outward indication he permitted to escape his lips. Even so, he stated a fact rather than voicing an appeal. 30. The vinegar was sour wine. It revived Jesus' strength, enabling him to say (with a loud cry, according to the other Gospels), It is finished. The same word (*tetelestai*) has already occurred in verse 28, rendered "accomplished." Emphasis here is not on the ending of the sufferings but on the completion of the mission of redemption. Gave up the ghost. Delivered over his spirit (to God).³

6. Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "**It is finished!**" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. (John 19:30) – **FINALITY**.

a) When He said, "It is finished" (not "I am finished"), He meant His redemptive work was completed. He had been made sin for people (2 Cor. 5:21) and had suffered the penalty of God's justice which sin deserved. Even in the moment of His death, Jesus remained the One who gave up His life (cf. John 10:11, 14, 17-18). He bowed His head (giving His seventh saying, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit" [Luke 23:46]) and then dismissed His spirit. This differs from the normal process in death by crucifixion in which the life-spirit would ebb away and then the head would slump forward.⁴

7. And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "**Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.**" Having said this, He breathed His last. (Luke 23:46) -- **CONFIDENCE**

a) Luke noted four things that occurred at the time Jesus died:

- First, two symbolic events took place while Jesus was on the cross.

- ☐ Darkness came over the whole land for three hours, from the sixth hour (noon) until the ninth hour (3:00 P.M.).⁵
- ☐ Jesus had already told those who arrested Him that "this is your hour—when darkness reigns" (22:53). Darkness was reigning because of His crucifixion. The other symbolic event was the

³ *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: New Testament*. 1962 (C. F. Pfeiffer & E. F. Harrison, Ed.) (Jn 19:28). Chicago: Moody Press.

⁴ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1985). *Vol. 2: The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (340). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁵ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1985). *Vol. 2: The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (262–263). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

tearing in two of the curtain of the temple, which separated the holy of holies from the rest of the temple.⁶

- ☐ The curtain divided people from the place where God had localized His presence. The tearing from top to bottom (Matt. 27:51) symbolized the fact that now, because of Jesus' death, people had freer access to God as they no longer had to go through the sacrificial system (cf. Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:18; 3:12). Jesus was the only Sacrifice needed to enable people to have a proper relationship with God.⁷

- b) Luke noted that Jesus' death occurred because He willed it. Breathing His last (Luke 23:46), He voluntarily gave up His life (John 10:15, 17-18).⁸
- c) The centurion noted that Jesus was a righteous Man, that is, not guilty (Luke 23:47). He too praised God, as did many others in Luke's Gospel.⁹
- d) The people who witnessed His death mourned (vv. 48-49).¹⁰

⁶ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1985). *Vol. 2: The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (262–263). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁷ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1985). *Vol. 2: The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (262–263). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁸ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1985). *Vol. 2: The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (262–263). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁹ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1985). *Vol. 2: The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (262–263). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

¹⁰ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1985). *Vol. 2: The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (262–263). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.