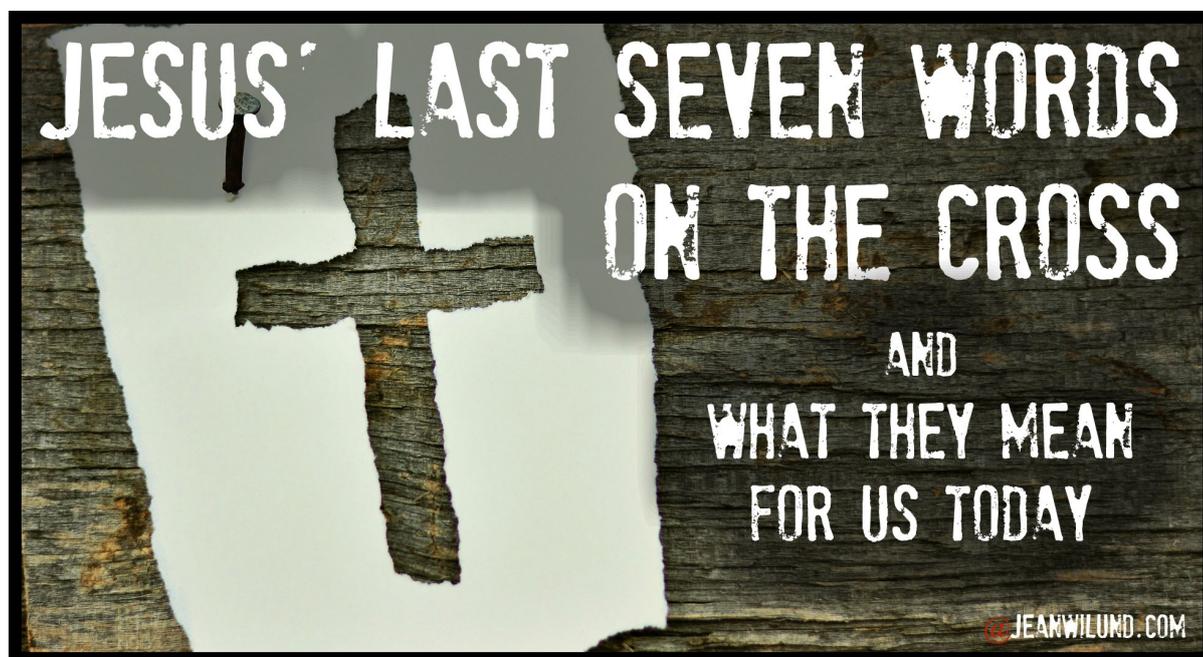


Jesus' Last Seven Words On the Cross & What They Mean For Us Today



_____†_____

If you could control the moment you died, what would your last words be?

Jesus controlled His.

Let's look at what He chose to say.

Let's look at His last seven *words* on the cross and what they mean to us today.

1. Forgiveness

*"Father, forgive them;
for they do not know what they are doing."*

(Luke 23:34 NASB)

Christ's first recorded words on the cross were a prayer. But not for Himself.

"Father, forgive them for they don't know what they're doing."

Really? They didn't know what they were doing?

It took awhile for Christ to stumble up to Calvary in His tortured state. They had plenty of time to realize where this would end.

They drove nails through His hands and feet.

How could they not know what they were doing?

And yet . . . "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they're doing."

They didn't know because sin blinded them.

The Jewish leaders, the crowd who cried out for His crucifixion, Governor Pilate who gave the order for His death, and the Roman guards who carried out their evil desires were all blinded by sin.

If they'd truly understood what they were doing, they wouldn't have done it.

They would've been too horrified.

Instead, they would've bowed before Jesus, not mocked, denied, and crucified Him.

What this means for us:

Like those who crucified Christ, we deny, excuse, and wink at sin.

And just like them, we're blind to the depths and seriousness of it.

If we saw our sin as it actually is – as God sees it – it would revolt us. We'd stay far from it.

But we're just as easily blinded by sin.

Unless God opens our eyes to it, we'll stay blind.

Ask God to help you see sin for what it is so you'll want to stay far from its destructiveness.

Sort of like most of us wouldn't be tempted to eat roach-filled brownies.

Then remember how sin blinds. That way when others sin against you, even those who surely *know* what they're doing, your heart will be able to forgive. Like Christ's.

"Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing."

Because none of us truly do.

2. Salvation

"And He said to him, 'Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.'"

~ Luke 23:43

Two criminals hung on the cross next to Christ. One spewed hate. The other admitted his guilt and asked Christ for mercy.

Salvation only came to one that day.

The thief, who believed Jesus is exactly who He said He was,

joined Christ in heaven that day. The other one doomed himself to hell by his unbelief. He had the same opportunity to believe but refused.

What this means for us:

As long as there is breath in our lungs, it's not too late for us to choose to believe.

But we won't have forever to make that choice.

Time ran out on the other criminal.

Don't let time run out on you. Choose today while there's still today.

3. Compassion

"Dear woman, here is your son."

~ John 19:26

The first three of Jesus' last words were for other people.

His concern, as He hung in agony, was for the forgiveness, salvation, and needs of others.

Specifically the needs of His mother. Mary.

We don't know what happened to Joseph by this point. Most believe he must have died as he's not mentioned in the Bible after Jesus was grown.

As Jesus hung on the cross, and pain pierced His body, He focused on His mother and passed the responsibility of caring for her to His beloved disciple, John.

What this means for us today:

Jesus showed us that much can be accomplished no matter our circumstances through great, selfless love for God and others.

It's natural when we're in pain to turn our thoughts inward. But studies have shown that when we turn our thoughts and actions toward serving others instead, our pain tolerance increases.

Jesus wasn't trying to reduce His stress by His actions, but it's not a bad benefit.

Jesus also demonstrated the importance of always showing love to your mother.

Did you hear that, kids? Jesus said so.

4. Anguish

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

~ Mark 15:34

When Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsake Me?” did He not understand what God was doing?

Was He suddenly confused in His anguish?

Absolutely not.

In all of Christ's humanity, He never lost His deity.

When He humbled Himself and took on the physical form of man, He laid aside His rights, not His divinity.

He submitted His rights even to death on a cross, but He never lost sight of His purpose or God's plan.

Yes, He suffered terrible anguish in His body from the agony of the cross and the flogging He endured beforehand.

He also suffered in His soul, as He carried the crushing weight of our despised sin.

But Jesus wasn't confused. He was quoting the first verse in Psalm 22.

Psalm 22 is filled with prophecies about Him, the Messiah, the Promised Savior. Every Jewish leader listening to Him knew that psalm.

By quoting that verse, Jesus declared that Psalm 22 spoke of Him.

Earlier in His ministry, Jesus had told the Jewish leaders that Moses wrote about Him. (John 5:46) In this one prayer, He revealed the Psalmists did as well.

What this means for us today:

In these words, Christ settles forever the question, "Does God really love me? Do I really matter?"

The answer is a resounding, "Yes."

Which of us would hand over our own beloved son to be tortured and forsaken for our friends, much less our enemies?

Who among us would pour out their own fierce wrath upon their beloved only son for the sin of those who spit on him and mocked him?

God did. (Romans 5:10)

And which of us would be willing to endure such torment for those who don't deserve it?

Jesus was. (Hebrews 12:2)

Yes, God *really* loves you.

And, yes, you *really* matter to Christ.

5. *Suffering*

"I am thirsty."

~ John 19:28

In Christ's humanity, His body was ready to give out. It suffered intense physical thirst.

In Psalm 22, God pointed to this moment.

"My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death."

~ Psalm 22:15

Through King David, God prophesied that Jesus would drink bitterness.

"...for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink."

~ Psalm 69:21

What this means for us today:

Man can live a long time without food, although it wouldn't be fun. But man cannot live long without water.

Jesus suffered agonizing physical thirst that spoke to our spiritual thirst.

Earlier in His ministry, Jesus spoke of spiritual thirst to the Samaritan woman at the well.

He said to her, "Give Me a drink." (John 4:7)

She was surprised by this for many reasons and was drawn into a conversation with Christ. In a way that only Jesus can do, He told her about Himself.

*“Jesus answered and said to her, **“Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”**”*

John 4:13-14

We're all created as spiritual beings. And without Christ—the Living Water—our spiritual thirst can never be quenched. And we can never truly live.

Without Him, we'll merely survive until we die. Eternally.

With Him, rivers of living water spring up from us to eternal life, and we will never thirst again.

6. Victory

“It is finished!”

~ John 19:30

What God begins, He finishes. Period.

Christ accomplished our salvation. The terrible price had been paid on the cross.

From that moment in the Garden of Eden when the *crunch* of rebellion was heard 'round the world, all of heaven and earth longed to hear these three words spoken.

“It is finished!”

Through these three final words uttered on the cross, Christ

expressed what every person longs to hear.

“I love you!”

What this means for us today:

Everything you need for salvation has already been accomplished.

All you need to do is accept Jesus' gift of salvation. You need to do anything to earn it. No good deeds or special works.

You can't earn it. You don't have it in you because you've got sin in you instead.

Simply:

Admit you're a natural born sinner with no hope of ever being free of your sin apart from Christ,

Believe in your heart that Jesus paid for all your sin on the cross, and

Confess Him as your Lord,

You will be saved.

Jesus finished the work of salvation on the cross. Accept it. Receive it. Enjoy it.

“It is finished!”

7. Joy

“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!”

~ Luke 23:46

Just like Christ's first words on the cross, His last words were a prayer to God.

In His words, we see the beauty of the perfect relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We also see the proof that Jesus truly gave His life. No one took it.

JESUS' LAST SEVEN WORDS ON THE CROSS
AND
WHAT THEY MEAN FOR US TODAY

JEANWILUND.COM

- 1. FORGIVENESS**
"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."
- 2. SALVATION**
"And He said to him, 'Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.'"
- 3. COMPASSION**
"Dear woman, here is your son."
- 4. ANGUISH**
"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
- 5. SUFFERING**
"I am thirsty."
- 6. VICTORY**
"It is finished!"
- 7. JOY**
"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!"

Jean
JEAN S. WILUND

His disciple Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus to the Jewish leaders.

The leaders demanded Pilate crucify Him.

Pilate handed Jesus over to the Roman guards.

The Roman guards nailed Jesus to the cross.

But no one took His life.

Jesus chose the exact moment when He would die.

After declaring, "It is finished," Jesus prayed, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."

Then He bowed His head and gave up His life.

Scripture doesn't say He passed away, thus His head fell forward.

It says, "He bowed His head and gave up His spirit." ~ John 19:30

What a powerful display of Christ's divinity. Even as He suffered the deepest agony possible, He remained sovereign over all, perfect in all His ways.

The agony was behind Him. The joy before Him. Jesus said His last words and then entered into His joy.

What this means for us today:

The Bible says it best.

***"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."
Hebrews 12:1-2***

These were Jesus' Last Seven Words before He gave His life on the cross.

But this is not the end of the story.

Today is Friday, but Sunday's coming!

[If you could control the moment you died, what would your last words be? #Jesus #Easter Click To Tweet](#)

NOTE: *Just to be clear, Jesus' last seven words on the cross weren't actually His "last words" because He's never going to have "last words." He rose from the dead and lives – and speaks – forevermore.*
