

The Seven Last Words (utterances) of Jesus

April 2, 2023

Statements that Jesus made during six agonizing hours of His crucifixion. Being made during the central act of redemption gives these words great significance. No single Gospel records all seven sayings.

Jesus' first three remarks were made between 9:00 a.m. and noon (Mk 15:25).

First cross utterance: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do." (Lk 23:34)

On the cross Jesus made forgiveness possible for all who would put their trust in Him.

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace (Col 1:14)

Forgiveness releases you from bitterness.

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Jesus forgives so that we can also forgive others.

Eph 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Col 3:12-13 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Second cross utterance: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" Lk 23:43

Jesus' promise to the thief gives us insight into what happens following a believers' death.

Salvation is offered to anyone, anywhere including on the deathbed.

Salvation is by grace through faith alone.

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Rom 3:21-26)

Third cross utterance: "Woman, behold, your son" and "Behold, your mother" Jn 19:26-27.

Jesus made provision for the care of His mother by John.

1Tim 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

[Three hours of darkness; Jesus is silent]

Jesus' last four statements were spoken between noon and 3:00 p.m. 6 p.m., the final hours before His death (Mt 27:45; Mk 15:33; Lk 23:44).

Fourth cross utterance: "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" Mt 27:46; Mk 15:34

His fourth statement was a cry of isolation, quoting Ps 22:1 in Aramaic "ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" This statement arose not so much from His own physical pain, but the anguish of solitary taking upon Himself the sin of the world.

Isa 53:3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; ...

Heb 13:5 ... He Himself has said, "I will never desert you nor will I ever forsake you."

Fifth cross utterance: "I thirst" Jn 19:28

His physical agony is expressed in this statement, when Jesus acknowledged His thirst.

Jesus experienced physical thirst so that our spiritual thirst would be quenched.

Jn 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 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." (Jn 6:35; Isa 55:1)

Sixth cross utterance: "It is finished, (tetelestai)!" (Jn 19:30)

The sixth saying that Jesus spoke was the single Greek word tetelestai which means It is finished.

The Lamb of God takes away the sin of the world.

The world's debt is paid.

God reconciles the world to himself by the death of His Son.

The types and symbolism of the old covenant have been fulfilled.

Papyri receipts for taxes have been recovered with the word tetelestai written across them, meaning "paid in full." This word on Jesus' lips was significant. When He said, "It is 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. (from The Bible Knowledge Commentary)

Seventh cross utterance: "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit" Lk 23:46

"Father," His final words were to His Father.

In His final words Jesus quotes Ps 31:5 as He commits His spirit to God.

"Spirit" and "breath" are the same Greek word.

Lk 23:46 ... Having said this, He breathed His last.

Jn 19:30 ... And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Jesus gives up His breath, it wasn't taken from Him.

John 10:17 "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.