

## Last Words

There's something about a person's last words that inspire our curiosity or seem especially important

While Jesus hung on the cross in His last hours He made several short statements that are commonly known by many preachers as Jesus', "Seven Last Words"

From the cross, Jesus voiced *three prayers, a promise, a piece of family business, a complaint, and a declaration*

- Jesus is not only the Son of God but also the greatest teacher of all time
- He continued teaching to His last breath
- These Last Words still have a great deal to say to you and I

## A Word of Forgiveness

### Luke 23:34 (NLT)

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."\* And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.\*

- Remember you and I put Jesus on the cross as surely as anyone in His own day
- That means He was interceding with the father on our behalf
- He makes this statement almost immediately after being lifted up on the cross

## A Word of Salvation

### Luke 23:42, 43 (NLT)

<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Do you need a breakthrough in an area of your life right now?

- Keep saying, Remember me!
- It's not that God is unaware or indifferent
- He just may have a different timing or solution in mind
- He invites us to keep coming persistently

### Luke 22:19, 20 (NLT)

<sup>19</sup> He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to **remember me.**”

<sup>20</sup> After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new “*covenant*” between God and his people—“*an agreement confirmed*” with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.\*

- Jesus keeps His promises
  - Jesus said, “Remember Me.”
  - The thief said to Jesus, “Remember me.”
  - We can say every day, “Remember me.”
- His mercies are new every morning
  - Another chance
  - A renewed hope

## A Word of Relationship

### John 19:26–27 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” <sup>27</sup> Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*.

- In the midst of natural and spiritual suffering, Jesus remembered His family responsibility
- He makes arrangements for one of His disciples to take care of His mother after His death
- This shouldn’t surprise us
  - Jesus was all about relationships
  - He is still all about relationships
  - This “Third Word” is relevant for us

You would think the disciples would have been gathered at the foot of the cross

- They weren’t
- Only one of them, John
- Judas committed suicide
- Peter denied Jesus, three times
- The others gathered in as house with doors locked

Who was present at Jesus’ crucifixion?

- Well, mostly women

## John 19:25 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Other Gospels say that there were “many” other women present

- John names four of them
- Jesus' mother – Mary of Nazareth
- Jesus' mother's sister
  - Probably Salome, mother of James and John
- Mary the wife of Clopas – the same person called Cleopas in **Luke 24**
  - Quite possibly the second person on the walk to Emmaus after the resurrection

Out of these four women Jesus focuses on His mother as He hangs on the cross

- When Mary was a girl, she willfully submitted to God's choice for her to be the mother of His Son
- She was a person who felt things deeply and pondered things about Jesus' birth and childhood regularly
  - See **Luke 2:19, 51**
- Probably worried about Him as He became a wondering preacher that attracted the hatred of the religious leaders
- As Jesus hung on the cross it would have been natural for her to question whether the plan of God had gone awry
- She was His mother
  - She was there when He was born and she was determined to be there at the end
- Jesus focuses His statement on Mary and, *“the disciple whom He loved”*

The normal thing would have been for Jesus to entrust Mary with one of His four brothers – **Matthew 13:55-56**

- Perhaps Jesus looks at family differently than we do

### **Matthew 12:48–50 (NKJV)**

<sup>48</sup> But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” <sup>49</sup> And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

- Most of Jesus’ family didn’t even become followers until after the resurrection
- They thought He was out of His mind
- Jesus doesn’t just put John in charge of Mary, He gives them both a new identity
  - Jesus creates a new family
- That’s what he does all the time for His followers
- He makes us “family” with God as our Father, Jesus as our brother, and each of us brothers and sisters

### **Hebrews 2:11 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

- What do you think of or feel when you realize that God is your Father and you are His child?
- How do you work at keeping your relationship with God open and loving?
- How can you become a better brother or sister?

Have you ever been lonely?

Researchers have found that the majority of people don't have others to talk to when they have something important on their minds

- Reports show the number of lonely people has tripled over the last twenty years
- Lonely people have a 26% higher risk of death

If you think social media is protecting you, think again

There is a direct correlation between the time spent on Facebook and the likelihood of your overall sense of satisfaction, including your social connectedness, going down

- Many of us feel isolated
- We all long to be connected
- We want to be seen, to know and to be known
- Human beings are designed for relationship

Loneliness was the first human problem

Genesis 2:18 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> And the LORD God said, "*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*"

- Adam lost some of his flesh and bone in his need for relationship
- Jesus took a spear to the side to ensure our relationship needs

## Romans 8:14–16 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

- For many of us it’s hard to see God as our Father
- Many of us see Him as a disapproving judge more than a loving Father

It’s true Jesus was a demanding leader

- Yet none of the disciples left Him because He was harsh
- The disciples knew they were engaged in a relationship with God in the flesh
- However difficult He was on them, on occasion, they wanted that relationship with Him

Condemnation and conviction are not the same thing

## Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

8 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

- When you feel like God is too harsh towards you remember that His disposition towards you is one of favor
- He is smiling over you
- He loves you and wants to be in relationship with you as your loving Father

God has always wanted us to be His sons and daughters

**Psalm 68:6 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup> God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.

**Galatians 4:4–7 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

<sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

- Jesus took the place of Barabbas
- “Bar-Abbas” – Son of the father – Son of Abba
- The innocent dies for the guilty
- The guilty goes free
- Jesus died on the cross so the sons of “Daddy” could be free and return home

**Romans 8:29 (NLT)**

<sup>29</sup> For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn\* among many brothers and sisters.



### Ephesians 1:4–5 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> just as He **chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,  
<sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

### Galatians 3:26 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

How is your relationship with your heavenly Father?

- Have you allowed it to be strained by sin you refuse to repent of?
- Have you allowed yourself to become distracted by relationships you've allowed to become more important than Him?
- What can you do to increase the intimacy level?
  - Pray
  - Talk to Him

### Matthew 14:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

- Jesus prayed when He was busy
- He prayed when He had important decisions to make
- He prayed to follow the will of His Father
- Three of His last seven words were prayers
- If Jesus needed to pray
- I need to pray

Jesus has enabled us to be adopted into the family of God

### Ephesians 2:19 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

- Not only is God our Father but we are all brothers and sisters
- Just as Mary and John became family so all believers of Jesus have become family
- Every family has issues
- The external disunity among Christians is regrettable and something we should all be working on
- Maybe you've been mistreated by a heavenly family member
- We all have
- Jesus has and is praying for us!

### John 17:20–21,23 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

<sup>23</sup> I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

It's true we all need to follow Jesus for our self, but you can't follow Him by yourself

- We need each other
- I know that a biological family can be disappointing from time to time
- A spiritual family can be as well
- We all have a responsibility to obtain and maintain unity

### Ephesians 4:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

### John 13:35 (NKJV)

<sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

### Psalms 133 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity! <sup>2</sup> *It is* like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. <sup>3</sup> *It is* like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

- When we work, and pray for unity we are in agreement with the prayers of Jesus
- There's power in agreement – **Matthew 18:19**
- When there is unity God commands a blessing!

