

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)

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

A Word of Salvation

Luke 23:42, 43 (NLT)

⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

A Word of Relationship

John 19:26–27 (NKJV)

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

- Jesus starts a new family
- We have been adopted – **Romans 8:14-16**
- You and I are part of the family of God

A Word of Abandonment

Matthew 27:46 (NLT)

⁴⁶ At about three o’clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli,* lema sabachthani?*” which means “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

- Jesus has to face abandonment from the Father so we never have to

Romans 5:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV)

⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

A Word of Distress

John 19:28 (NLT)

The Death of Jesus

²⁸ Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, “I am thirsty.”*

- In this fifth word Jesus is speaking out of His humanity
- After the torture, copious bleeding and exposure on the cross for hours, He must have been dehydrated

Psalms 22:15 (NLT)

¹⁵ My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay. My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. You have laid me in the dust and left me for dead.

- We all know what it's like to be thirsty
- We all know what it's like to have human distresses of many kinds
- Hunger, sickness, injury, pain, loneliness, fear, depression, disappointment.....
- Jesus understands, He's been there

Hebrews 2:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had* the power of death.

- Not only has He identified with our Humanity, He suffered and died without sin to break the power of the Devil and death over us

We all can also relate to being thirsty and longing for more of God

- Many times, we can be thirsty both physically and spiritually
- Jesus knows what both are like

Keep in mind while to onlookers the crucifixion of Jesus looked like something that was happening to Him, it was actually something that He chose to do

- Already Jesus had fulfilled so many prophecies of the Messiah on the cross
- Now He was about to die, and there is one more He wanted to fulfill

Psalm 69:21 (NKJV)

²¹ They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

- The drink would have dulled the pain
 - Wine mixed with myrrh
- Most of us would have taken it – Jesus refused
- Jesus was determined to fully experience suffering for our sake

John 19:29 (NLT)

²⁹ A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips.

- This sponge wash saturated with vinegary wine
- Jesus accepts a taste at the end of His bitter experience
- Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath to the dregs so we would never have to taste it

The sponge was placed on a branch of hyssop

Back at the time of the Exodus the Hebrews used stalks of hyssop to paint lambs blood on their doorposts

- It was a sign so the angel of the Lord would pass over them
- Now Jesus the Passover lamb has being slain
- The law said that hyssop was to be used to spatter blood as a sign of purification for a diseased person or an infected house

Psalm 51:7 (NIV)

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

- Because of His shed blood, Jesus cleanses all who repent
- A stalk of hyssop is used to raise a sponge up to Jesus' lips

“I am thirsty” seems mundane yet gives us hope that God will quench our thirst for the needs we have in this life

- Especially for our need to experience more of Him

What do you thirst for?

- Are you thirsty for an illness to end?
- Are you thirsty for a marriage to get better?
- Are you thirsty for a job?
- Are you thirsty for respect?
- Are you thirsty to do something that matters?
- Are you thirsty to defeat an addiction?
- Are you thirsty for a soulmate?
- Are you thirsty for the pain to go away?

Psalm 34:8 (NLT)

⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

Whatever you are thirsty for there are two things that will help you uncover the meaning in your distress

- Trust and Time

Just as going through a “Dark Night” of the soul can be part of your spiritual maturing so enduring thirst and distress, through faith can help mold you into someone more like Christ

- Jesus’ distress on the cross didn’t mean His situation was hopeless
- Neither should your distress cause you to lose hope
- Just because we face trouble doesn’t mean God is not still in control
- Jesus’ mission on the cross was successful

John 16:33 (NLT)

³³ I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

- When we face the trials of life
- When we thirst physically and spiritually
- Jesus will quench that thirst and we will find peace in Him
- Take heart, He has overcome the world

Strike the Rock

Our biological need for hydration is so great that when we get thirsty it's hard to think of anything else

- When our need is urgent we can lose all sense of perspective

Two times the Hebrew people got into trouble because of thirst

- In all fairness, they were in the Sinai desert
 - One of the driest places on earth
 - Parts of it get less than two inches of rain per year
 - It has little surface water except for an occasional flash flood
- They complain and argue with Moses about their thirst

Exodus 17:4–7 (NLT)

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What should I do with these people? They are ready to stone me!” ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Walk out in front of the people. Take your staff, the one you used when you struck the water of the Nile, and call some of the elders of Israel to join you. ⁶ I will stand before you on the rock at Mount Sinai.* Strike the rock, and water will come gushing out. Then the people will be able to drink.” So Moses struck the rock as he was told, and water gushed out as the elders looked on. ⁷ Moses named the place Massah (which means “test”) and Meribah (which means “arguing”) because the people of Israel argued with Moses and tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD here with us or not?”

- They questioned whether God was even with them
- Moses does what God tells him to do and they get water

The second time

The people are complaining again

There are no grapes, no pomegranates, no figs, and no water to drink

- Moses and Aaron go into the tabernacle into the presence of God
- God tells them to go out and “speak” to the rock
- Moses raises his rod and strikes the rock
- Perhaps in anger towards the constant complaining

God provides water for the people but tells Moses he and Aaron will not lead the people into the Promised Land because of their disobedience

- God names the place Meribah – the place of arguing

1 Corinthians 10:4 (NLT)

⁴ and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ.

- The water they drank was a form of deliverance for them
- True deliverance can only come from Jesus Christ

When you find yourself in desperation mode remember that Jesus is the only one that can quench natural and spiritual thirst

- We must go to the right source of water for our thirst
- We must go to Jesus for help
- Illness, injury, weakness or whatever it may be
- He is sufficient for all of our needs

Whether our physical distresses come directly from service to Christ, or just part of living in a fallen world God's power can shine through them

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)

⁹ Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

- Rather than complain about his weakness Paul learned to boast in it
- He declared his delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions in difficulties
- Because in his weakness Christ's power displayed itself

2 Corinthians 12:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- Are you able to look at your pain, weakness, distress that way?
- That's what spiritual maturity looks like
- We can learn to find God's grace in the midst of distress

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NLT)

⁷ We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure.* This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

The Woman and the Two Wells

Jesus is passing through Samaria and comes to a well to rest

- The disciples have gone to buy food
- A woman arrives at the well
- Jesus asks her for a drink

John 4:9–10 (NLT)

⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans.* She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?”

¹⁰ Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.”

- Jesus is reaching beyond her natural need for water to her spiritual need for refreshing

John 4:11 (NLT)

¹¹ “But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water?”

- Any time you’re talking to Jesus don’t start a sentence with, “You have nothing...”
 - Whatever you say next is wrong
 - Remember He feed 5000 with a few fish and chips
 - And sends everyone home with a doggie bag
- When you have Jesus, you have everything
- Jesus didn’t need a bucket
- He is the source of “Living Water”
- She came to a well but more importantly meets one instead

God will bypass what you think you need to give you what you really need

John 4:13–16 (NLT)

¹³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” ¹⁵ “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.” ¹⁶ “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her.

- On the surface this sounds like a nice invitation
- I’d like to meet Bob
- But her situation was complicated
- She reply’s “I have no husband”

Jesus starts to tell her about her whole life

- He wants to show her she’s been going to the wrong places for “water”
- And you’re still not satisfied
- You’ve been married five times
 - The man you’re living with isn’t your husband
 - This is the first recorded “Friends with Benefits”
 - She declares Him a prophet

She then starts to deflect by talking about the differences on the place of worship between Jews and Samaritans

- Jesus tells her that the Father is looking for those who worship in Spirit and Truth
- She responds, “*I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.*”

John 4:26 (NLT) ²⁶ Then Jesus told her, “I AM the Messiah!”*

- God is saying, I am the One
- I’m the well
- I’m the one you’ve been looking for
- But you didn’t know where to look

Many times, we find ourselves unsatisfied with life

- We wonder if anything means anything
- That’s because we’re drinking from the wrong wells

Jeremiah 2:13 (NLT)

¹³ “For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me—the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!

- Where have you been drinking?
- Jesus is the only true source of satisfaction

Isaiah 55:1 (NKJV)

“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

In your suffering, you need to know what Jesus knew – That there is a purpose in your pain

- You can push through it until it’s passed
- Ask God to reveal the purpose in your pain
- Ask Him to help you live into that purpose
- It may not change your circumstances but it will transform your inner life

Digging a Well

After Jacob steals his brother Esau's blessing he spends 20 years with his relative Laban

- When he returns, on his way to Paddan-aram he purchases a piece of land on which he pitched his tent
- He builds an altar there
- Although a well is not mentioned, tradition and the account in John 4 lead us to believe he either “dug” or “purchased” a well there
- This is right after he wrestles with God and comes to terms with his lifelong struggle with his identity
- He certainly had been drinking from the wrong well

When God had His son die on a cross and dug a grave to bury His body, He was digging a well

- Jesus would rise up in resurrection power so the living water of His Spirit could spring up within us

When we go through hard things in life God is digging a well within you and living waters will flow through it

- The words, “I am thirsty” remind us of a well that never runs dry

Revelation 7:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”