

The Seven Last Words Of Jesus
GOOD

SON OF
MANKIND

FRIDAY
April 2, 2021



PROGRESS CHURCH

The Seven Last Words Of Jesus

Good Friday

April 2, 2021

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THE FIRST WORD: Luke 23: 18-25

“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing (Luke 23:34).”

- ❑ Jesus was concerned for the ignorance of those responsible for His death.
- ❑ He was concerned for the soldiers who were inflicting His wounds.
- ❑ He was concerned about Jewish leaders who instigated the crucifixion.
- ❑ He was concerned about the crowd that demanded it.
- ❑ Jesus’ concern does something wonderful for us.



THE FIRST WORD:

- ❑ It assures us that, as terrible as our sins might be, Jesus prays, “*Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.*”
- ❑ If Jesus could forgive the people who were killing Him, how much easier must it be for Him to forgive our sins, great or small.

THE SECOND WORD:

“Assuredly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise (Luke 23:43).”

- ❑ Jesus, as a King, shows concern for the vilest of sinners, the outcast.
- ❑ One of the thieves shouted, *“IF you are the Christ, save yourself and us!”*
- ❑ *“IF”* was the word the devil used when he tried to tempt Jesus.
- ❑ Jesus was hungry, after a long fast in the wilderness. The devil said, *“IF you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread (Luke 4:3).”*
“IF”
- ❑ *“IF you are the Son of God, cast yourself down from the pinnacle of the temple (Luke 4:9-10).”* *“IF”*
- ❑ That was the beginning of Jesus’ ministry.
- ❑ Now, at the end of Jesus’ ministry, the devil speaks again

THE SECOND WORD:

- ❑ This time through the voice of a thief. *“IF you are the Christ, save yourself and us!”* IF
- ❑ But there was a second thief, and that thief answered for Jesus.
- ❑ He asked the first thief, *“Don’t you even fear God?”*
- ❑ He went on to tell the first thief that the two of them were both guilty, and they deserved the punishment that they were receiving.
- ❑ But he said, *“This man has done nothing wrong.”*
- ❑ Then he turned to Jesus and said, *“Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”*
- ❑ Jesus responded by saying, *“Assuredly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise (Luke 23:39-43).”*

THE THIRD WORD:

“Therefore when Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother!’ From that hour, the disciple took her to his own home (John 19:26-27).”

- ❑ In the midst of His misery, Jesus has the grace to consider His mother’s welfare.
- ❑ In the midst of His misery, Jesus dispenses grace on those around Him.
- ❑ He has asked forgiveness for His tormentors (the first word).



THE THIRD WORD:

- ❑ He has assured the second thief that he would find himself in Paradise that very day.
- ❑ Now He turns to those who are closest to Him; the disciple whom He loved and His mother.

THE FOURTH WORD:

“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ (Matthew 27:46b; see also Mark 15:34).”

- ❑ One of the most beautiful things about the Bible is its honesty.
- ❑ *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* Those words come from Psalm 22, but they are just the first two verses of that psalm.
- ❑ The Psalmist begins in despair, but then he stops to remind himself of the ground on which he stands.
- ❑ The Psalmist wouldn't give up. He prayed, *“You who fear God, praise him! ...Stand in awe of him, all you descendants of Israel (Psalm 22:23).”*

THE FOURTH WORD:

- ❑ He also prayed, *“For God has not despised, the affliction of the afflicted, neither has he hidden his face from him; but when he cried to God, he heard (Psalm 22:24).”*
- ❑ Yes, the Psalmist felt despair, but his faith trumped his despair.
- ❑ So it was with Jesus! He certainly felt despair, but He wouldn't allow His despair to be His final word.

THE FIFTH WORD:

“That the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, ‘I am thirsty’ (John 19:28).”

- ❑ Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”
- ❑ The Romans tormented their prisoners, in part, by denying them water.
- ❑ But we need to hear Jesus’ cry, “I am thirsty,” on a different level, because he was quoting from Psalm 69.
- ❑ In that psalm, the Psalmist said, *“My throat is dry. My eyes fail, looking for my God (Psalm 69:3).”*

THE FIFTH WORD:

- ❑ God hears the needy, and doesn't despise His people
- ❑ *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled (Matthew 5:6).”*
- ❑ They will not find life still empty!

THE SIXTH WORD:

“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, ‘It is finished’ (John 19:30a).”

- ❑ He was in control of His life and death.
- ❑ He was not a victim of treachery, but was instead a willing sacrifice to give life to others.
- ❑ Jesus isn't saying, “It's over and done with. I have failed.”
- ❑ To the contrary, He is saying, “My work is complete.
- ❑ I have finished what I came to do.



THE SIXTH WORD:

- I have lived the life to which I was called, and I have set the stage for the salvation of the world.
- That's what Jesus meant when He said, "*It is finished.*"

THE SEVENTH WORD:

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit (Luke 23:46—quoting from Psalm 31:5).”

- ❑ Jesus is entrusting Himself to the Father’s care.
- ❑ Jesus’ mood is not despair, but confidence that the Father who sent Him into the world with a mission is now prepared to receive Him back again.
- ❑ Jesus breathed His last breath for this particular day—this Good Friday.
- ❑ But, as we know, it won’t be Jesus’ last breath.
- ❑ On the other side is Resurrection Sunday
- ❑ He will breathe again.