

Jesus' Words on the Cross

<p>FORGIVENESS Jesus did not act in anger and condemn those who killed him. He asked for their forgiveness.</p>	<p>Luke 23, verse 34 – “Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”</p>
<p>SALVATION Jesus saved the thief on the cross after he asked Jesus to remember him.</p>	<p>Luke 23, verse 43 – “And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”</p>
<p>RELATIONSHIP Jesus was the oldest son and, therefore, was responsible for his mother. He honored her and provided for her by assigning his responsibilities to another.</p>	<p>John 19, verses 26 and 27 – “When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.”</p>
<p>ABANDONMENT Jesus truly died for our sins and was separated from God the Father. He felt real suffering not only in the flesh but also in the spirit.</p>	<p>Matthew 27, verse 46 – “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”</p>
<p>DISTRESS Jesus was a real man, and he experienced real human suffering.</p>	<p>John 19, verse 28 – “After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.”</p>
<p>TRIUMPH Jesus declared His own victory over death. When He declared, “it is finished,” He was not just declaring that His earthly life was over, He was, also, declaring a completion of prophecies concerning Him, and was declaring victory over sin and death.</p>	<p>John 19, verse 30 – “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”</p>
<p>REUNION Jesus did not die and cease to exist; instead, He returned to the place He came from, Heaven. Here he had a perfect relationship with God the Father.</p>	<p>Luke 23, verse 46 – “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”</p>

(Side note: Notice there are 7 statements. 7 is the Biblical number of completion.)

WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

Many people today, including many scholars, professors, and teachers try to tell us that Jesus never existed or they say he was just an ordinary man. These people do not want us to believe that he was God in the flesh, that He was "God with us". The Bible refutes this in every possible way. The words of Jesus on the Cross reveal something other-worldly about the man who was crucified. Even in His final hours, Jesus did not turn His attention onto his own pain and suffering; instead, He prayed for the forgiveness of those who inflicted unimaginable pain and eventually crucified Him. In the end, He shouted a victorious declaration that He was returning to God the Father. In between, He saved a man, fulfilled His worldly duties to His mother and fulfilled all prophecies concerning His life and death. He suffered as a man, yet even in death he never sinned. Notice that after Jesus declared "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit", He gave up the ghost. His life was not taken from Him, He gave it up. Jesus gave up His life for us. We should always remember this.

Relevant Passages

Mark 8:31-38

And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. 33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men. 34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Luke 21:27

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Revelation 1:7

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Revelation 22:12-13

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.