

Seven Last Things Jesus Said On The Cross

A. Luke 23:34. But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

1. This is a demonstration of the greatest of LOVE and MERCY.
2. When we face somebody that hates us, mocks us, or hurts us, it is hard to think well of them or wish them well.
3. Jesus had faced the most cruel and base of human conduct...
 - a) Cruelty (the crown of thorns, mockery, scourging).
 - b) Injustice (They tried and convicted him with false witnesses).
 - c) Cowardice (they came and took him by night—They feared Him before but now would mock Him)
4. Still, despite all this, he wanted good for them.
 - a) This is what Paul says we must do— overcome evil with good. See Romans 12:19-21.
 - b) Jesus' motive and purpose (to save the lost) was never changed by seeing the evil side of men.
 - c) His purity of thought and holiness of purpose were never tainted or destroyed by thoughts of hatred, vengeance, etc.
 - d) We are to follow Christ in this:
 - 1) Strength to disregard the evil of others when deciding whether we want to wish them well.
 - 2) Wisdom to look above the worst that men can do and know the best they are capable of being.
 - 3) Love enough to be willing to forgive the worst of crimes against our person.

B. John 19:26-27. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own [household.]

1. It is thought that the unnamed disciple is John.
2. The purpose of this seems to have been a PROVISION for her, for her living after Jesus was gone.
3. This shows that children have a RESPONSIBILITY to their parents. Eph. 6:2.
4. We can learn to be more unselfish and think less about ourselves and more about the parents we OWE SO MUCH.
5. We might use as an excuse "difficult times"— "no time", etc. Are we having it harder than Jesus ON THE CROSS? And yet He didn't forget!!!

C. Luke 23:43. And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

1. Some point to this as an example of forgiveness without baptism which makes them think baptism isn't needed for salvation .
2. Not only was this salvation without BAPTISM, it was salvation without BLOOD because Jesus hadn't yet shed His life's blood.
3. The thief was saved under a completely different system of forgiveness—a different requirement— than we have today. He was saved under the Law of Moses.
4. This statement also shows us what Jesus KNEW ABOUT DEATH.
 - a) Death is NOT a complete ceasing of existence.
 - b) Death is NOT an experience of peace and bliss for everybody (Paradise was only one part— there was a place of torments as well. Luke 16:22-30).

- c) Everyone will LIVE EVEN AFTER DEATH. (John 5: 28-29).
- d) DEATH would not be a SLEEP because it would be PARADISE where they were going— How can you enjoy a PARADISE when you are asleep?
- e) Jesus assured the thief of the reality of a place where they would be immediately after death.
- 5. This gives us HOPE in death and KNOWLEDGE that we may someday go to this paradise if we are faithful in this life to Him.
- 6. This shows Jesus went to Hades to paradise but NOT to HEAVEN when He died.. (Acts 2:25-30).

D. Matthew 27:46. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" See Psalm 22:1

- 1. Jesus hung there WITHOUT HELP at that moment— The Father forsook Him because He bore the sins of mankind...
 - a) (1 Pet. 2:23-25) He bore our sins in His own body on the tree...
 - b) God cannot look upon sin (Hab. 1:12-13).
 - c) His face is against the evildoer (1 Pet. 3:12).
- 2. This may have been one of the hardest things for Jesus to face as he saw the cross looming before Him.— isolation from the Father— the closest loved one. A close family member had suddenly become an enemy.
- 3. Remember that he suffered such a rejection so that We could be acceptable to God through Him.

E. John 19:28. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I am thirsty."

- 1. We sometimes see Him as "superhuman", somehow not really touched by emotions, fears, doubts, temptations like we are. (Heb. 4:15)
- 2. This statement should remind us of how terrible the cross must have been physically to bear. He was dying, and he was thirsty as he lost blood, body fluids...

F. John 19:30. When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.

- 1. We have the literal meaning, "it is finished", but the original Greek phrase meant much more (Matt. 27:50... loud voice).
- 2. This could very well mean a "shout of victory"
- 3. Jesus had won! He had conquered his fears, his aversion to shame and sorrow, and had been a winner over pain, humiliation, and the hatred of men. He had won the victory for OUR SOULS!

G. Luke 23:46. And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit." And having said this, He breathed His last.

- 1. He was going to be with the Father shortly.
- 2. He could not have been really sad about all that.
- 3. We can have the hope of someday being with God.
 - a) (John 14:1-3) He goes to prepare a place.
 - b) (1 Thess. 4:13-14) Asleep in Jesus— they will be brought WITH HIM.
 - c) This hope can strengthen and sustain us day by day.
 - (1 Thess. 1:9-10) They were taught to wait for Jesus from Heaven...