

Seven Last Sayings of Jesus from the Cross

various Scriptures

Good Friday

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Friday, April 18, 2014, 7pm at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois
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Of the criminal on the cross: "He had a breakfast of reviling, a lunch of repenting and a dinner of rejoicing; all in one day."

– Charles Haddon Spurgeon



Matt: The greatest expression of God's love is Christ crucified. If you see no other evidence of God's love, there is one thing you cannot escape. You cannot escape the cross.

Mike: John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Let us travel down the road with Jesus to the Cross. Let us see how deep the Father's love for us is.

Matt: Behold! Jesus hanging on a cross. He has been betrayed by one of His twelve disciples, Judas Iscariot. He has been rejected as Messiah by His people, who chose an insurrectionist and a murder over Him. He has been beaten and flogged. He has been mocked and humiliated. He has been despised and rejected by men. Here is the Messiah, the King of the Jews, dying to set His people free.

Hymn 1: What Wondrous Love is This

1ST SAYING: FATHER FORGIVE

Mike: This was a dark day. The sun was hidden from noon until 3pm and it was as if it were night. The religious leaders of Israel stood by as Jesus suffered at the hands of Rome on an execution device. "[They] scoffed at Him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"

Matt: Luke 23:35. From the **Roman soldiers** we hear, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” (Luke 23:37). Even “one of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” (Luke 23:39).

Mike: “And [even] those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!” (Mark 15:29-30)

Matt: But Jesus, “When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly” 1 Peter 2:23.

Mike: Instead Jesus, while hanging on the cross, said these words: “**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do**” (Luke 23:34). Jesus could have called upon His Father to send a legion of angels to exact revenge on these evil men, but instead He prays for them.

Matt: Amazing grace! Incomprehensible love! Boundless mercy flowing like an ocean! Forgive them. Forgive you, forgive me! For as Luther said, “the nails that crucified Christ are in our hands.”

Hymn 2: O Sacred Head Now Wounded (4 verses)

2ND SAYING: TODAY...PARADISE

Mike: “One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” 42 And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43 And [Jesus] said to him, “Truly, **I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.**”

Matt: What an outlandish request! What is even more out of this world is that it was granted! This man was a crook. He deserved to die and to pay for his sins. But Jesus in this moment taught this criminal about grace.

Mike: Spurgeon said this about the criminal: “He had a breakfast of reviling, a lunch of repenting and a dinner of rejoicing; all in one day.” This man saw Jesus for who He was, not a criminal, but the Messiah. He acknowledged his own guilt and repented. And Jesus saved him from the cross!

Hymn 3: Come Ye Sinners

3RD SAYING: WOMAN...SON

Matt: Even in the midst of the greatest suffering any human being could imagine, Jesus was thinking of others instead of Himself. We read in **John 19:26-27** that while Jesus was hanging on the cross that He turned to His disciple John and His mother Mary and said this, “When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” 27 Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.”

Mike: Mary is now older, and a widow. She has watched her Son grow from that little baby in the manger to the man who would save His people from their sins. Indeed she was told by Simeon at the Temple when Jesus was a child, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel...³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also)” (Luke 2:34-35).

Matt: And here she is watching her son die an agonizing death, and her soul was pierced. Even in this moment Jesus seeks to honor His mother and ensures that she will be cared for upon His departure. Jesus cares for the needs of his mother. Jesus cares for the widows and orphans, the weak and needy. He cares for you and for me.

4TH SAYING: MY GOD, MY GOD

Mike: In Jesus’ last moments He cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me” Mk. 15:34 (Mt. 27:46). Sometimes we hear people say, “I went through hell on earth.” Honestly, only one person has ever truly gone through hell on earth. On the Cross, Jesus Christ suffered the wrath of God for those who will turn to Him in repentance and faith.

Matt: He was punished, shamed, and forsaken that we might be forgiven, cleansed, and accepted! Hell is separation from the presence of God, and Christ

took the full brunt of abandonment for us. This abandonment is the result of God's wrath that we justly deserved.

Mike: But behold the Man of Sorrow! Behold the one who received our judgment! We see Jesus on this Day of Judgment taking upon his shoulders all our sin and shame. All the vile blasphemous heinous sins we have committed.

Matt: And Jesus cries out as He receives the wrath we deserve! He takes our guilt and shame as our substitutionary atonement. "He became sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

Mike: This is the great exchange! He who was guiltless became guilty for us. He who was without sin and shame, was shamed for us. And we have received His righteousness. Hallelujah!

Hymn 4: How Deep The Father's Love For Us

5TH SAYING: I THIRST

Matt: ²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth (John 19:18-29).

Mike: Jesus is here in His last moments, fulfilling prophecy. In Psalm 69:21 we read, "They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink." The One who made water. The One who made the oceans - He agonized with thirst! All the springs and all the rivers find their source in Jesus, and yet He cries out from the Cross, "I thirst!"

Mike: Hebrews 4:15, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses. He could have caused a rainstorm to begin. He could have opened up the fountains of the deep. But He chose to take your sin upon Himself and to suffer in our place. O what love is this! Let us mourn for our Savior! See Him thirsty, writhing in pain."

Hymn 5: Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

6TH SAYING: IT IS FINISHED

Matt: John 19:30, “When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished.” It is finished! He has accomplished the purpose for which He came into the world. His hour had come, and He had faithfully loved His own to the very end.

Mike: And on this final Day of Atonement Christ offered Himself up without blemish to God and thus secured for His people an eternal redemption. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins, but the blood of the eternal Son of God in our flesh has shed His blood once for all.

Matt: It is finished! There is no other atonement needed. Jesus is our spotless lamb; He has made an end to all our sins. Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

Hymn 6: There is a Fountain Filled with Blood

7TH SAYING: I COMMIT MY SPIRIT

Mike: Luke 23:46, “Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.” “Jesus dies with a cry of faith” (Darrell Bock).

Matt: Jesus commits Himself unto His Father, trusting that He will care for Him. The Son is confident that He will not be abandoned over to death and that his flesh will not see corruption. He trusts that He will be raised from the dead by the power of the Spirit.

Mike: Jesus was obedient even unto His last breath. His faith did not waver, and His hope was in God. And it is here at the end of Good Friday we look to our Easter hope. The grave cannot hold Him: sin, death, and Satan are be conquered by the eternal Son of God.

Matt: My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Hymn 7: And Can It Be

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn 8: Jesus Paid it All