

THE WORDS OF THE SAVIOR ON THE CROSS

Introduction

- 1) All the recorded words of Jesus are for our learning and understanding, including the words that He spoke during the six hours that He was on the cross
- 2) These “seven sayings” remind us of His character, teaching, suffering, and victory
 - a) In these words we examine our own heart as we hear the voice of the dying Savior

I) Words of Grace and Forgiveness

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34)

- 1) Ignorance and spiritual blindness will lead to sinful actions (1 Tim. 1:12-15)
- 2) Limitless compassion to forgive sin – conditioned on repentance (Acts 3:13-19)

II) Words of Salvation and Hope

“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43)

- 1) Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Lk. 19:10) and give hope of eternal life (Jn. 6:40)
- 2) Salvation is freely extended to all today in Christ through the new covenant (Acts 2:38)

III) Words of Affection and Love

“Woman, behold your son! Behold your mother!” (John 19:26, 27)

- 1) Cared for and honored His mother in the flesh (Matt. 15:4; 1 Tim. 5:8; Gal. 6:10)

IV) Words of Prophecy and Anguish

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)

- 1) Quoting Psalm 22:1 – messianic psalm about intense suffering and anguish from persecution
- 2) *Enkataleipo* (Gk) – leave behind, abandon, forsake (reason/attitude known from context)
- 3) Father not turn against Son, but left him to the enemy to suffer (Isa. 53:10; Matt. 26:53-54)

V) Words of Humanity and Suffering

“I thirst!” (John 19:28)

- 1) Intense physical suffering of human body – experienced fully by Jesus (1 Pet. 2:21)
- 2) Fulfilled prophecy and learned obedience in His sufferings (Lk. 24:25-27, 46; Heb. 5:8)

VI) Words of Accomplishment and Victory

“It is finished!” (John 19:30)

- 1) Cry of victory in what appeared to be an hour of defeat – *tetelestai* (Gk) - accomplished
- 2) Jesus successfully completed the Father’s purpose and plan (Lk. 2:49; Jn. 17:4)
- 3) Entirety of God’s plan points to the cross – wisdom now seen in church (Eph. 3:8-11)

VII) Words of Trust and Contentment

“Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit” (Luke 23:46)

- 1) Jesus died fully trusting in His Father’s care and purpose (Psa. 31:1-5; Jn. 10:15, 18)
- 2) Because of Him we can face death without fear (Eccl. 12:7; Heb. 2:14-15; 2 Tim. 4:6-8)

Conclusion

On the cross, our Savior confirmed God’s grace, love, salvation, accomplishment, and victory! What will you now say to the Savior who reigns in heaven? Will you reject Him or obey Him?