

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

LUKE 23

Text:

Introduction:

The last words of a dying man tell us a great deal about him.

Read:

- I have treated Christ like a dog. (pg. 87)
- Last testimony of Augustus Toplady (pg. 109)
- You cannot run away from the spirit of God (pg. 135)
- "I'm in the flames - Pull me out, Pull me out!" (pg. 100)

There is one man in history whose last words not only tells us a great deal about Him, but also tells us a great deal how we are to live our lives.

Two thousand years ago a man, Jesus Christ hung dying on a cross for the sins of the whole world. Seven statements were recorded from His lips that day.

Those famous tell us many things about our Saviour.

1. A MAN OF FORGIVENESS (LUKE 23:33-38)

(Luke 23:33-38) "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. {34} Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. {35} And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. {36} And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, {37} And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. {38} And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

A. Forgives sinners

(Acts 5:31) "Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."

(Acts 13:38) "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:"

(Acts 26:18) "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

(Eph 1:7) "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"

(Col 1:14) "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"

B. Forgives saints

(1 John 1:9) "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

We too should forgive people:

(Luke 6:27-29) "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, {28} Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. {29} And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also."

2. A MAN OF MISSION (LUKE 23:39-43)

(Luke 23:39-43) "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. {40} But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? {41} And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. {42} And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. {43} And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

- Even when it would have been easy to focus on His own pain, He remembered what He was here for.

(Psa 22) "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? {2} O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. {3} But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. {4} Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. {5} They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. {6} But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. {7} All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, {8} He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let

him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. {9} But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts. {10} I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly. {11} Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help. {12} Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. {13} They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. {14} I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. {15} My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. {16} For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. {17} I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. {18} They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. {19} But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. {20} Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. {21} Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns. {22} I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. {23} Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel. {24} For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.

{25} My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him. {26} The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever. {27} All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. {28} For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations. {29} All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul. {30} A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. {31} They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this."

A. With His last breath He was living out His purpose.

(Luke 19:10) "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

B. If we are not careful we will lose focus on our purpose.

3. A MAN OF COMPASSION (JOHN 19:25-27)

(John 19:25-27) "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of

Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. {26} 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."

A. He was always thinking about others.

Illustrations:

- Mary Magdalene (Demon possessed)
- Woman at the well
- Thief on the cross
- You and me

B. We too need to think of others.

(Jude 1:22) "And of some have compassion, making a difference:"

4. A MAN OF FEELING (MATT 27:45-46)

(Mat 27:45-46) "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. {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?"

A. The greatest pain of His death was not:

1. The scourging.
2. The pulling out of His beard.
3. The fist hitting His face
4. The tearing away of the scabs that had formed against his clothing as the tore His clothes from Him.
5. The crown of thorns that was beat into His head.
6. The nails that pierced into His hands and feet.
7. The bone that came out of socket as the cross fell into the hole in the ground.

B. The greatest pain was the moment God His Father turn His head and forsook Him because of mine and your sins that had been placed upon Him.

C. Sadly many today live comfortably away from God, instead of in daily fellowship with Him.

5. A MAN OF HUMANITY (JOHN 19:28-29)

(John 19:28-29) "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. {29} Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth."

A. He had the same needs that you and I have each day.

6. A MAN OF COMPLETION (JOHN 19:30)

(John 19:30) "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

A. He finished the work He came to do.

B. He paid for sin in full.

7. A MAN OF SUBMISSION (LUKE 23:44-46)

(Luke 23:44-46) "And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. {45} And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. {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."

- A. In His dying breath Jesus was committed to remaining in submission to the Father.
- B. Faith in the Father to take care of Him.
- C. Paul understood this kind of submission.

(Phil 1:21) "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."