

# The Seven Sayings of the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ from all four Gospels

Matthew 27:32-56

Mark 15:21-41

Luke 23:26-49

John 19:17-30

## Introduction:

1. Jesus was crucified at 9:00 A.M., after being tried by the Jews all night and Pilate and Herod early in the morning (Mark 15:25).
2. He was offered wine with a bitter addition to dull His pain, but He refused it to drink the dregs of God's wrath (Mark 15:23).
3. Pilate put a sign on the the cross in three languages, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS (John 19:19-22).
4. This is not a detailed study of the crucifixion, but rather a review of the seven statements our Lord spoke while on the cross.
5. For a summary of the events of the crucifixion from all four gospels (page 24) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/john-nineteen.pdf>.
6. Before getting to Golgotha or Calvary, the place of a skull, Jesus warned women of Jerusalem about 70 A.D. (Luke 23:27-31).
  - a. Even on the way to the cross, Jesus Christ was conscious of the great judgment coming on His nation for rejecting Him.
  - b. Like Jesus, Peter on the Day of Pentecost spoke at length about God's judgment on that untoward generation (Acts 2:40).
  - c. His warning was precisely about that generation – women then living and their children – a generation (Luke 21:29-33).
  - d. He Himself had wept over the city of Jerusalem and what would happen to its many children in the siege (Luke 19:41-44).
  - e. It would have been better not to have children than to have them and see them suffer through the violent siege of Jerusalem.
  - f. That wicked generation told Pilate they would take the innocent blood of Jesus on them and their children (Matthew 27:25).
  - g. If the Jews and Romans were vile enough to flush all justice and mercy to crucify the innocent Man Christ Jesus during a time of peace and prosperity, they would be far worse during a violent war of revenge and starvation by an extended siege.
  - h. For more about 70 A.D. and this warning statement by Jesus ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/prophecy/70ad/sermon.php>.

<u>Seven Savings of the Cross</u>	<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>	<u>John</u>
#1 <i>Father, forgive them ...</i>			23:34	
#2 <i>Today thou shalt be with me ...</i>			23:43	
#3 <i>Woman, behold thy son! ...</i>				19:26-27
#4 <i>My God, My God, why hast ...</i>	27:46	15:34		
#5 <i>I thirst.</i>				19:28
#6 <i>It is finished.</i>				19:30
#7 <i>Father, into thy hands I ...</i>			23:46	

## FATHER, FORGIVE THEM; FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.

“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots” (Luke 23:34).

1. Having been falsely condemned, scourged, and crucified, He prayed for forgiveness for His enemies.
2. Though fully planned by God, what anger and revenge the Father must have had toward those men.
3. As He taught us to love enemies, He prayed for those who despitefully used Him (Matthew 5:43-48).
4. Though suffering wrongfully, our Lord Jesus Christ did not revile or threaten (I Peter 2:21-24; Is 53:7).
5. He went as a lamb to the slaughter and dumb like a sheep before shearers in submission (Isaiah 53:7).
6. This prayer was (a) only for a few, (b) specific to one sin, and (c) based on depraved human ignorance.
7. Rather than presuming eternal life for all present, let us relate to Stephen's specific prayer (Acts 7:60).
8. And the Scripture was fulfilled, which says He made intercession for the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12).
9. The mercy here sought and granted was only temporal for their abuse of God's Son (Cp Acts 14:17).

10. Sin is aggravated by the degree of light in a person, and the soldiers had little (Lu 12:47-48; Jn 19:11).
11. Rejoice that such perfect righteousness was imputed to us in our justification (Rom 4:6-8; II Cor 5:21).
12. The princes of this world did not know what they did; but we know things by His Spirit (I Cor 2:6-12).

1. They parted his raiment and cast lots for his woven coat (Matthew 27:35; Luke 23:34; John 19:23-24).
2. The Jews, rulers, soldiers, and thieves railed on him (Matt 27:39-44; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:35-37).

### **VERILY I SAY UNTO THEE, TO DAY SHALT THOU BE WITH ME IN PARADISE.**

“And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:42-43).

1. Both thieves had been railing against the Lord Jesus prior to these words (Matt 27:44; Mark 15:32).
2. But one thief began to defend Jesus and rebuked the other for his unjust accusations (Luke 23:39-41).
3. He then asked Jesus as Lord to remember him when He gained His kingdom (Luke 23:42). What faith!
4. Men can only confess Jesus as Lord by the Holy Ghost (I Corinthians 12:3). Praise God for His grace!
5. This thief, by recognizing the kingdom of God, must have been born again to do so (Jn 3:3; 1:12-13).
6. Therefore, we may conclude that Jesus Christ was speaking life even while dying (John 5:24-25).
7. Paradise is the third heaven (II Cor 12:1-7 cp Gen 1:6-8,14-19,20), where God and the angels dwell.
8. Both the elect thief and Jesus went to God’s Presence that very day, just as Paul taught (II Cor 5:6-8).
9. There is no such thing as soul sleep, for the human spirits of both men were in heaven that very day.
10. Jesus did not descend into hell, neither body nor spirit; His body was buried and His spirit in heaven.
11. And we also shall be instantly with the Lord Jesus in the presence of God when we depart this body.
12. Reject the New World Translation that moves the comma and teaches soul sleep from this passage, for the word “today” is modifying when the thief would be in Paradise rather than when Jesus spoke.

### **WOMAN, BEHOLD THY SON! BEHOLD THY MOTHER!**

“When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home” (John 19:26-27).

1. There was a particularly personal relationship between our Lord Jesus and John (John 13:23; 21:20).
2. The words addressed to Mary were not about Himself, but were directing her to consider John her son.
3. Jesus did not in any way ask Mary to look at His pain and suffering and to participate with Him in it.
4. The words addressed to John were not about John’s mother, but were assigning Mary to John’s care.
5. Even at death’s door, He showed obedience to God’s law with righteous zeal (Ex 20:12; I Tim 5:8).
6. He was lucid and strong enough to engage in wise mental preparation and cry out loudly several times.
7. Again, we should consider that such great righteousness on His part was imputed to us by justification.

1. There was darkness over the earth from 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. (Matt 27:45; Mark 15:33; Lu 23:44).
2. Because it was Passover, this could not have been a solar eclipse for it was a full moon, not a new one.

## **MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?**

“And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34).

1. These words are found prophetically in Psalm 22:1; and they are found comparatively in Matt 27:46.
2. These words are recorded in Hebrew to explain the following confusion by some present (15:35-36).
3. “Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in; when Christ the mighty Maker died.”
4. The comfort of God’s gracious Presence and affection for Jesus had been withdrawn due to our sins.
5. The degree of loneliness is determined by the degree of love, affection, and unity had beforehand.
6. The relationship between Jesus and His Father had been inviolate for His life (Isaiah 42:1; Matt 3:17; 11:27; 12:50; 17:5; 26:39,42,53; Luke 2:49,52; John 1:18; 5:17; 8:19,28; 10:17; 14:20; 15:10; 18:11).
7. We are afraid of the darkness and unknown, and Jesus had endured three hours of both in great agony.
8. The waves and billows of God’s wrath rolled over the exposed soul of the Lord Jesus (Psalm 69:1-3).
9. Sin sent the angels out of heaven, our parents out of Eden, and Jesus Christ from God’s Presence.
10. Separation from God’s Presence and enduring His Holy Wrath was given to Jesus (II Thess 1:9).

## **I THIRST**

“After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst” (John 19:28).

1. The horrible thirst of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross had been prophesied (Psalm 22:15; 69:21).
2. The bodily suffering of Jesus was very real; we cannot forget His humanity and physical experiences.
3. Yet Jesus also knew that He could not die until He had fulfilled all scriptures, further proof of Him.
4. He had yet to be given vinegar to drink and partake of it, which He did to finish all written of Him.

1. They gave Him a sponge with vinegar on a reed to His mouth (Matthew 27:48; John 19:29).
2. The soldiers had such a drink nearby, which was part of their ration and used commonly by them.

## **IT IS FINISHED**

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

1. What was finished? The things He must do before dying were finished. Note the context (Jn 19:28-30).
2. His words here, the sixth saying, were clearly dependent and a result of fulfilling the vinegar prophecy.
3. It is a shame that these words are often used as a sound bite for redemption without regard to context.
4. Now that all things were done and finished, Jesus Christ could and did give up His spirit to die for us.
5. His Father’s business, known from youth, was concluded (Luke 2:49; Matt 1:21; John 6:39; 17:1-3).
6. Paul declared that due to God delivering up His Son for us, all other gifts would be given (Rom 8:32).
7. Who will require more in the work of redemption, if the Son of God declared it finished (Ro 8:33-34)?
8. Who will require further offering and perfection, if our Lord Jesus perfected us forever (He 10:10-14)?

## **FATHER, INTO THY HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT**

“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” (Luke 23:46).

1. He laid down His life; it was not taken away (Jn 10:18); the centurion observed this fact (Mk 15:39).
2. He died prematurely; there was surprise He was already dead, for crucifixion kills slowly (Mk 15:44).
3. The Father loved Jesus for His willingness to lay down His life in obedience for us (John 10:14-18).
4. Though forsaken in God’s consolatory comfort and fellowship, He chose to enter the veil of death with confidence and faith in the hands of the Most High. It shall not be so severe for His faithful saints.
5. Let us consider such great faith and trust in God (Matthew 27:43; Hebrews 2:13 cp 11:6; Gal 2:16).

1. The temple veil, protecting the holy of holies, was rent from top to bottom (Matt 27:51; Mark 15:38).
2. An earthquake tore rocks and opened graves, and saints rose after His resurrection (Matt 27:52-53).
3. The centurion and others testified He was the Son of God (Matt 27:54; Mark 15:39; Luke 23:47-48).
4. The centurion observed that Jesus had given up the ghost – He had laid down His life voluntarily.
5. The many spectators that had witnessed these events returned after smiting their breasts (Luke 23:48).