

Jesus' Last Words

What would YOU say if you were entirely falsely accused, yet were being put to death in a very cruel and painful manner? What would YOU be saying?

Have you ever wondered what Jesus' last few words were here on this earth? As He was dying on the Cross? I am certain each one of you has heard these things individually many, many times. However, I wonder if anyone has thought of these things in a single group in the same context. I had not. And so, here we go:

His exact last few words are, in fact, a matter of controversy. Matthew and Mark agree, but Luke and John each have His last words entirely different from the other three Gospels.

I often say that Jesus' crucifixion was painful beyond our imagination. He not only died by the most cruel and painful death process known at the time, He carried every single sin ever committed to that point, at that point and to and through the end of time with Him on the Cross. Unknown trillions of sins. So many that the earth became dark for 3 hours from the 6th hour to the 9th hour just before His death. At the end of this 3 hour darkness, He spoke His 1st utterance on the Cross. When he died, the event rent the Temple apart and the earth trembled. Non-believers would say "sins" are philosophical, but they were physically taken to the Cross by Jesus.

So, let's look at Christ's last few words here on earth, the last known statements He made on the Cross!! In the below, I try to not make any interpretation, except in one place which is (hopefully) obvious. It is intended to be simply factual.

Christ uttered seven statements while on the Cross:

- [1. Father forgive them, for they know not what they do](#)
- [2. Today you will be with me in paradise](#)
- [3. Behold your son: behold your mother](#)
- [4. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me](#)
- [5. I thirst](#)
- [6. It is finished](#)
- [7. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit](#)

Note: Links in this document are to a Wikipedia well documented article on this subject by Biblical scholars. However, be careful. I saw a mistake on that webpage.

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1. **Father forgive them, for they know not what they do** [Luke 23:34](#)

"Then Jesus said, Father forgive them, for they know not what they do".

Wiki: This is the first saying of Jesus on the cross and is traditionally called "***The Word of Forgiveness***".^[16] It is theologically interpreted as Jesus' prayer for [forgiveness](#) for those who were crucifying him: the Roman soldiers, and apparently for all others who were involved in his crucifixion.^{[17][18][19][20]} However, *many early manuscripts omit Luke 23:34.*^[21]

2. **Today you will be with me in paradise** [Luke 23:43](#)

"And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you today you will be with me in paradise"

Wiki: This saying is traditionally called "***The Word of Salvation***".^[16] According to Luke, Jesus was crucified between two thieves ([Dismas](#) and [Gestas](#)), one of whom supports Jesus' innocence and asks him to remember him when he comes into his kingdom. Jesus replies, "Truly, I say to you..." (ἀμὴν λέγω σοί, *amēn legō soi*), followed with the only appearance of the word "[paradise](#)" in all the Gospels (παραδείσω, *paradeisō*, from the [Persian](#) *pairidaeza* "[paradise garden](#)").

Controversy: *A seemingly simple change in punctuation in this saying has been the subject of doctrinal differences among Christian groups, given the lack of punctuation in the original Greek texts.*^[22] *Protestant Christians usually use a version which reads "today you will be with me in Paradise".*^[22] *This reading assumes a direct voyage to Heaven and has no implications of [purgatory](#).*^[22] *On the other hand, Catholic have used a reading which emphasizes "I say to you today", leaving open the possibility that the statement was made today, but arrival in Heaven may be later.*^[22]

3. **Behold your son: behold your mother** [John 19:26-27](#)

"Woman, behold your son. Then he said to the disciple, Behold your mother".

Wiki: *Jesus saw his own mother, and the disciple standing near whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son". Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother". And from that hour, he took his mother into his family.*

This statement is traditionally called "***The Word of Relationship***" and in it Jesus entrusts [Mary](#), his mother, into the care of "[the disciple whom Jesus loved](#)".^[16]

Note: In my view, when Jesus says "Woman, behold your son", He is referring to her beholding the disciple who is Jesus' younger brother whom Mary is also mother to. (It is documented that Jesus' younger brother was a disciple of His.) Then Jesus reminds the younger brother that he is now responsible for caring for their mother, as is Jewish custom, as was Jewish custom and, perhaps, law.

4. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me

"Jesus shouted in a loud voice, saying "Eli Eli lama sabachthani?" which is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Wiki: [Matthew 27:46](#): "Around the ninth hour, Jesus shouted in a loud voice, saying "Eli Eli lama sabachthani?" which is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

[Mark 15:34](#): "And at the ninth hour, Jesus shouted in a loud voice, "Eloi Eloi lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

This saying is traditionally called "**The Word of Abandonment**" and is the only saying that appears in more than one Gospel.^[16]

It is a quote from King David in [Psalm 22](#). The [Gospel of Mark](#) makes numerous [allusions](#) to Psalm 22 during the crucifixion of Jesus:

- "[My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?](#)" ([Psalm 22:1](#); [Mark 15:34](#))
- "They hurl insults, shaking their heads." ([Psalm 22:7](#); [Mark 15:29](#))
- "They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment." ([Psalm 22:18](#); [Mark 15:24](#))

(In the [Roman Rite](#) of the period before 1955, this psalm was sung at the [Stripping of the Altar](#) on [Maundy Thursday](#) to signify the stripping of Christ's garments before crucifixion. The psalm was preceded and followed by the antiphon "Diviserunt sibi vestimenta mea: et super vestem meam miserunt sortem" (They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment).^[6])

5. I thirst (John 19:28)

"I thirst"

Wiki: This statement is traditionally called "**The Word of Distress**" and is compared and contrasted with the encounter of Jesus with the [Samaritan Woman at the Well](#) in John 4:4-26.^[16]

6. It is finished (John 19:30)

"It is finished."

Wiki: This statement is traditionally called "**The Word of Triumph**" and is theologically interpreted as the announcement of the end of the earthly life of Jesus, in anticipation for the Resurrection.^[16]

Note: This Wiki reference is not entirely correct. Biblical scholars interpret this statement to mean that all of the prophecies concerning Jesus' life on earth and His ministry had been fulfilled. His assignment by God Himself was completed. There was no need for Him to remain on the earth any longer, except for a short time after His resurrection.

7. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit (Luke 23:46)

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

Wiki: From Psalm 31, this saying, which is an announcement and not a request, is traditionally called "The Word of Reunion" and is theologically interpreted as the proclamation of Jesus joining the [God the Father](#) in Heaven.^[16]

Psalm 31:5: “Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.