

# The Seven Utterances from the Cross

Doug Hamilton



## I) The Forgiveness of Jesus as a Human

Luke 23:34 But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves."

- The primary business of the cross was forgiveness, but we must be careful to understand the type of forgiveness Jesus is referring to in this case. **There are two types of forgiveness in the Bible, divine and human.**
  - Example of Divine Forgiveness -Col 1:13-14 "For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."
  - Examples of Human Forgiveness -Col 3:12-13 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;<sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
- It is obviously that the latter of the two was what Jesus referred to. He was modeling what we need to have as our human obligation toward each other here on earth. Jesus had every reason to hold a personal grudge, but He did not.
- He was mocked, falsely accused, scourged, spit upon, stripped naked, nailed to a cross, had his clothes sold off, ridiculed, hit in the face, bloodied, battered, betrayed, shamed and left to die. There was nobody there that Jesus did not have a right to carry out a grudge, but chose to turn it over to God.
- Are you holding a grudge against another? Did someone put the hurt on you that agonizes your heart? Is there anything, any grudge, any sorrow, any hurt, any pain, any revenge, any complaint, any bitterness, any regret, any burden against another that is worth carrying in this life? Turn it over to God today. Don't pass up this opportunity. **Luke 23:34 "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."**

## II) The Forgiveness of Jesus as Savior

Luke 23:43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

- In the second phrase, we are introduced to the forgiveness of Jesus, not as a human, but as divine. This is not a temporary forgiveness, but eternal forgiveness. He was talking to a repentant thief on the cross next to Him. The thief requested "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!"

### The First Cross: The Power of Jesus

- When Jesus was hanging on that cross, He was representing the true nature of Christianity, that is HE HAS THE POWER TO FORGIVE SINS. He demonstrated this while on earth.
  - Luke 5:23-25 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?<sup>24</sup> "But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to

## The Seven Utterances from the Cross

Doug Hamilton

forgive sins,"-- He said to the paralytic-- "I say to you, rise, and take up your stretcher and go home." <sup>25</sup> And at once he rose up before them, and took up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God.

- John 8:11 And she said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go your way. From now on sin no more."
- This is the cross that we are to cling to in our Christianity, for if Jesus did not have the power to forgive sins, then what kind of Savior is He?

### The Second Cross: Denominationalism

- This is the cross of the thief bound for Paradise, for he had been forgiven of Jesus.
  - He confessed Jesus even when the staunchest disciples fled.
  - He believed while Jesus was being reviled.
  - He made the confession while he himself was hanging naked and destitute on a cross.
  - He truly recognized his sinful state
- It was to this thief that many in the world of denominationalism cling to. They reduce the gospel to pre-New Testament times as spelled out following the resurrection of Jesus. They preach a baptismless salvation while clinging to the cross of an Old Testament covenant.

### The Third Cross: Secular Religion

- The third up for discussion was the "Cross of Secular Religion" of the other thief. He had a twisted faith and it was that of a "testing nature". He was hurling abuse at Jesus, meaning he said with a tone in his voice "Are you not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" He wanted Jesus to save him unconditionally, without a relationship, without any commitment, without any love in his heart or desire to know Jesus. He is like most of the world that claims to be Christian, isn't he? **The "secular religious cross is the cross of an uncommitted heart."**

There were three crosses on the hill that day, one on the right, one on the left and Jesus' in the middle. On the one side a man who died in his sins; on the other side a man that died forgiven of his sins; and in the middle, Jesus Christ, the mediating prince of peace, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, the one that died for our sins. Which cross are you hanging on to? Depending on how we answer that will determine if we will be with Jesus in the end.

### III) The Family of Jesus

John 19:26-27 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own {household.}

- What a touching moment this would have been. It is not enough that Jesus went through the torment of a vicious beating and crucifixion, but He had to leave hurting loved ones behind, loved ones who did not really understand fully what was occurring before them. It is here we find the family of Jesus being addressed. Some have made the argument that Mary was the only one who was technically the "family" of Christ.
  - Matt 12:50 "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."
  - John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, {even} to those who believe in His name,

## The Seven Utterances from the Cross

Doug Hamilton

- It is through the blood of Christ “from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name” Eph 3:15
- When Jesus gave the command to John to take care of His mother, it was symbolic of how the church needs to take care of each and every member. We are our brother’s keeper and helper.
  - John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
  - Heb 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is {still} called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
  - Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
- The third utterance of Jesus communicates that we are the family of God through Jesus Christ.

### IV) The Forsaking of Jesus

Matt 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, " Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? "that is," My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

- **From eternity past, long before the creation of the universe, Father, Son and Holy Spirit existed in unbroken harmony as a perfect unity.** All three, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were together before the beginning was the beginning; they were in every sense of the word ONE. They were called in their plural form “Eloihym” in Gen 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” They are the “US”, “OUR” and “OUR” of 1:26. They always have and always will be ONE.

### Why did God have to forsake Christ?

#### 1) To Show the Sinfulness of Man

- When God forsook Jesus, the sins of man became obvious. At the cross we saw the worst in man come out. Mankind ridiculed Him, beat Him, lied about Him, cursed Him, abandoned Him, doubted Him, stole from Him, tortured Him and murdered Him. The moral display of decadence demonstrated around the forsaken Christ was widespread. God left Jesus in the hands of sinful people and sin they did.

#### 2) To Show the Loneliness of Jesus

- When Jesus hang on the cross and God forsook Him, this became the loneliest of all times and places. Jesus would be forced to burden the sins of mankind on His cross at a time when He needed the Father more than ever. *2 Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin {to be} sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

#### 3) To Show His Love to the World

- In Gen 22:1-14, God was asking Abraham to sacrifice his only son on an altar, testing him. He promised that through his heir that all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Abraham went to the designated location of Mount Moriah to sacrifice Isaac, thinking that God would raise him from the dead. He would not allow Abraham to do what He would have to do concerning His own Son. It is in this forsaking that God proved His loved for the world.

That is the three-fold pattern of Psalm 22, the source of Jesus’ quote on the cross. In that Psalm it was predicted that Jesus would suffer alone on that cross, that men would despise Him, mock Him and shame

## The Seven Utterances from the Cross

Doug Hamilton

Him. It said that He would suffer thirst and hunger on the cross, that his joints would pull out of place, that nails would pierce His hands and His garments would be divided up. It was such a horrible forsaking that the sky was darkened for three hours as God turned His face away from Jesus. Even through all this and more, God would be glorified in the end. My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me? It could not have been done any other way.

### V) The Fulfillment of Jesus

John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I am thirsty."

- 1) A Savior is Coming! Gen 3:15
- 2) From line of Abraham Gen 12:2-3
- 3) From line of Isaac Gen 26:4-5
- 4) From line of Jacob Gen 35:10-12
- 5) From line of Judah Gen 49:10
- 6) From line of Jesse Isa 11:10
- 7) From line of David Jer 23:5
- 8) He will be a prophet among the people. Deut 18:15
- 9) He will be born of a virgin. Isa 7:14
- 10) He will be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2
- 11) He will be called the Son of God. Ps 2:7
- 12) They will present Him gifts. Ps 72:10
- 13) He will be threatened by murder as an infant. Jer 31:15
- 14) He will be called out of Egypt. Hosea 11:1
- 15) He will be preceded by a messenger. Isa 40:3
- 16) He will come out of Galilee. Isa 9:1
- 17) He will preach the gospel message. Isa 61:1-2
- 18) He will perform miracles. Micah 7:15
- 19) He will teach in parables. Ps 78:2
- 20) He will heal the sick. Isa 53:4
- 21) He will delight to do the will of the Father. Ps 40:8
- 22) He will be rejected by His own people. Ps 118:22
- 23) He will ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. Zech 9:9
- 24) He will enter into His temple. Mal 3:1
- 25) He will be betrayed by one of His disciples...Ps 41:9
- 26) ...for thirty pieces of silver...Zech 11:12
- 27) ...which will be used to purchase a potter's field. Zech 11:13
- 28) His disciples will abandon Him...Zech 13:7
- 29) ...and stand afar. Ps 38:11
- 30) False witnesses will come forward. Ps 35:11
- 31) He will keep silent in the accusations. Isa 53:7
- 32) They will hate Him without cause. Ps 69:4
- 33) He will be beaten and scourged. Isa 53:5
- 34) Soldiers will divide His garments. Ps 22:18
- 35) He will have His hands and feet pierced through. Ps 22:16
- 36) He will be numbered among the thieves. Isa 53:12
- 37) He will be mocked by the people during the crucifixion. Ps 22:7-8
- 38) The sun will go dark "in that day". Amos 8:9

## The Seven Utterances from the Cross

Doug Hamilton

- 39) He will be pierced through with a spear. Zech 12:10
- 40) He will suffer thirst. Ps 22:15
- 41) They will offer Him gall and vinegar to drink. Ps 69:21
- 42) His legs will not be broken according to protocol. Ps 34:20
- 43) He will be forsaken by the Father. Ps 22:1
- 44) He will fully trust God at the point of death. Ps 31:5
- 45) He will be buried in a rich man's tomb. Isa 53:9
- 46) He will come back from the dead. Ps 16:10
- 47) He will ascend to heaven. Ps 68:18
- 48) He will be at the right hand of the Father. Ps 110:1
- 49) He will pour out His Spirit on the apostles. Joel 2:28-29
- 50) He who will believe in Him will not be disappointed. Isa 28:16

We can see from the above that fulfillment of prophecy is equated with fulfillment of Christianity in our own lives. If Jesus is the Messiah, and He is, then His predictions of resurrection are also true. "I am thirsty" was said to show the FULFILLMENT OF JESUS. He has a proven track record of the fulfillment of prophecy.

### VI) The Faith of Jesus

Luke 23:46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit." And having said this, He breathed His last.

- This is the last statement that Luke records, the sixth of seven phrases spoken by Jesus. This is similar to what David's surrender to God in Ps 31:5 *Into Thy hand I commit my spirit; Thou hast ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth*, but what does Jesus mean by this? We know who the "Father" is, what "into" means, where "Thy hands" are and who the "I" was, but what is "commit"?
- Simply put it, Christ was proclaiming to God in the presence of many witnesses that He was "committing" or laying before God the Father, His "spirit". What is this "spirit"?
- *1Thes 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Paul reveals to us that we not only have a body and a soul, but also a spirit. Spirit cannot be body and cannot be soul, but spirit. What is the spirit that Paul is referring to? It is the same "spirit" that Jesus is entrusting to the Father, the spirit of life.
- The spirit of life is what was God breathed into Adam and made man a living soul. *Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*
- The spirit of life is what was driven from all living things during the flood. *Gen 7:21-22 And all flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; <sup>22</sup> of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died.*
- Jesus was entrusting His spirit of life unto the Father. That is the highest level of trust that anyone could ever offer God, for it encompasses all. The only thing else that Jesus had to entrust to the Father was the very thing that would bring Him back from the dead, the "spirit of life" itself. True faith is placing the very essence of life itself in the hands of God, knowing that death is overcome. This is what Jesus did, signifying the ultimate faith in God.

The Seven Utterances from the Cross  
Doug Hamilton

VII) The Finality of Jesus

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.

A) "IT IS FINISHED" MEANS CONTROL

- Jesus was the One that was in control over the situation, not the Jews. Jesus was the One that was in control, not the Romans. It was not Herod in control of the situation, not Caesar, not Pharaoh, not Pontius Pilate, not anyone but Jesus. How did Jesus get up on that cross? Do you think it was through the actions of others or the will of God?

B) "IT IS FINISHED" MEANS CONCLUSION

- There is not another plan for mankind, but what Christ did on the cross. There are no other Messiahs coming. There is not another preparation that will be coming along to deliver mankind from the darkness of their sins. Jesus, the Son of God, died, was buried and resurrected the third day, according to the scriptures.

C) "IT IS FINISHED" MEANS COMFORT

- The word for "he bowed" is klino - "to incline, to bow down". The verb is deeply significant here. Another example of the usage of this word: Matt 8:20 and Luke 9:58 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air {have} nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."
- What is indicated in the statement "He bowed His head," is not the helpless dropping of the head after death, but the deliberate putting of His head into a position of rest. This explains why the head dropped then the spirit of life departed and not the other way around. The Son of man had nowhere to lay His head during His earthly ministry, but found comfort at the point of death on the cross. Finally there is comfort! Jesus was able to say "It is finished because it truly was concerning the work of the cross.

The seven utterances of Jesus communicate:

- I) The Forgiveness of Jesus as Human (Luke 23:34)
- II) The Forgiveness of Jesus as Savior (Luke 23:43)
- III) The Family of Jesus (John 19:26-27)
- IV) The Forsaking of Jesus (Matt 27:46)
- V) The Fulfillment of Jesus (John 19:28)
- VI) The Faith of Jesus (Luke 23:46)
- VII) The Finality of Jesus (John 19:30)