

HOME BIBLE STUDY SERIES

"SAYINGS OF JESUS" *From the Cross*



- 1 -- "Father Forgive Them"
- 2 -- "Today, You will be
with Me in Paradise"
- 3 -- "Woman, Behold Your
Son"
- 4 -- "My God, My God,
Why have You
Forsaken Me?"
- 5 -- "I Thirst---It is Finished"
- 6 -- "Father, into Your hands I
commend My Spirit"

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Lesson One

"Father, Forgive Them"

Someone has observed: *"The Cross of Jesus marked the greatest hour in the entire moral history of man!"* A writer by the name of Shakespeare wrote: *"The tongues of dying men enforce attention like deep harmony: Where words are scarce, they are seldom spent in vain, For they breathe truth that breathe their words in pain."*

The Apostle Paul declared by inspiration: ***"For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."*** (1 Cor. 2:2). It was during this momentous event in history that Jesus is recorded as having uttered seven sayings from the cross that gives us insight to the heart of Jesus. These sayings are well-worth our time and effort to understand. We will cover all seven sayings in this study.

Background to Utterances

Jesus was betrayed to the soldiers by Judas. The religious leaders wanted to stop Jesus—put Him to death—because they feared the people. Now, an opportunity presented itself to stop Him. They took him at night and brought Him to trial before their councils and condemned Him to death. It was now up to Pilate, the Roman Governor, to allow His death. After several efforts on Pilate's part to release Jesus, the people finally prevailed, and he allowed Jesus to be taken and crucified by the Roman soldiers.

On the way to the hill of Calvary, He was forced to carry His own cross for a while; but upon falling under its weight, another was forced to carry it for Him. The women who followed bewailed and lamented what was happening. Jesus' remark to them was: ***"...do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."*** (Lk. 23:28-31).

They crucified Jesus about 9:00 AM along with two other men who were called malefactors or robbers. Crucifixion was a slow, painful, agonizing death. It was meant for punishment for the Law-breaker, especially insurrectionists. It was meant to deter others from the same course. To heighten its lesson to the Jews, Pilate had a sign erected overhead: ***"This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."*** Jesus' reaction to what was taking place was: ***"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do!"***

Observations About Jesus' Prayer

1. Jesus realized they were acting out of ignorance. During his trials by the Jews, they accused Him of blasphemy (Matt. 26:59-66). They did not really know who He was because they had closed their eyes, ears, and hearts so that the truth would not be evident. They had many opportunities to learn of His true Nature, but they didn't take advantage of such. They seemed to have been truly ignorant of this great event in history. The Roman soldiers also were ignorant of whom they were crucifying. To them, He was just another Jew that no longer posed a threat to them. This made it easy for them to gamble at His feet while he died. Looking down upon this sight around Him, He cried out to God, the Father, **"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!"** And we too, at times, are just as ignorant of important events occurring about us. How many times do we act out of ignorance to what is taking place. We can easily identify with these people.

Can you recall a concrete example of such in your life?_____

2. Jesus showed the true mind of God towards sinful mankind. He is not a God that is far away; or one that is unconcerned about mankind; or one that is wrathful just waiting to send men to Hell for their sins. But rather, He is a God who is just and good, merciful and forgiving—and Jesus expressed such in His dying hour! But it was here, on this occasion, that God did the seemingly impossible—He justified the ungodly—but was JUST in His actions.

Rom. 3:26 _____

For God to be just, He could not forgive the penalty of sin without a just cause. His Law stated: **"The soul that sins, he shall die."** Jesus' death on the cross made forgiveness possible because He did not deserve death. Therefore, He was able to die in our stead and meet the demands of God's Law—making it so we would not have to die!

Heb. 9:22 _____
Matt. 26:28 _____
Rom. 5:6-11 _____

God not only wants to forgive, but He has made it possible to do so through Jesus' death on the Cross. Jesus was merely reflecting in His statement here what was in the mind and heart of God from the very beginning of time!

3. Jesus' prayer was consistent with His teachings and life. His teachings:

Matt. 6:14-15 _____

Matt. 18:21-22 _____

His actions:

Mark 2:1-5 _____

John 8:11 _____

Lk. 7:41-48 _____

Jesus' prayer only reflects what He taught and practiced. But He not only prayed for their forgiveness, but died to make it a possibility! When forgiveness was spoken of in the Old Testament, it was done so with a view of Jesus' death. Even during the public ministry of Jesus, forgiveness was offered in view of death for sin. Without the death of Jesus, there can be no true forgiveness of sins before God!

LAW has no meaning if there is no punishment for the Law-breaker! Without prisons, it would be hard to have an orderly society. God is just and He must uphold His Law. He cannot pass lightly over sin and still uphold His Law. But His love found a way to forgive the sinner and He would be just in doing so. He allowed His Son to suffer in our place. God's wrath for sin was poured out upon Christ.

Rev. 5:9-10 _____

Were These People Forgiven?

Did the Father answer Jesus' prayer? Did He say "Yes" or "No?"

Did He say "Maybe" or "Wait a while?" There is no recorded answer!! There is a possible insight given to us, however in Acts chapter 2. In His sermon to the Jewish people, Peter accused them of crucifying Jesus. If they were forgiven when Jesus prayed, why still accuse them of that which was forgiven? (Acts 2:23, 36, 38). The same thing happened in Peter's next recorded sermon (Acts 3:13-19). The Jews were again accused of crucifying Jesus....but were offered forgiveness through Him. We know that those who believed and obeyed the Gospel were forgiven!

Concluding Thoughts

Jesus' prayer asking the Father to forgive these people show assure us that God wants to forgive sinners—even those who crucified His Son. If we want forgiveness, we must believe and obey His Gospel, however. (Acts 2:38).

Questions for Discussion

True or False

- _____ 1. The Death of Jesus is a significant even in the history of mankind.
- _____ 2. Preaching the crucifixion of Christ has to be the heart of the Gospel message.
- _____ 3. Pilate gave in to the people's request only after several efforts to release Jesus.
- _____ 4. Jesus carried His cross all the way to Calvary.
- _____ 5. Crucifixion was used by the Romans to help deter people from insurrection.
- _____ 6. Jesus was crucified about 10:00 AM.
- _____ 7. Jesus expected the Father to forgive those people right then and there.
- _____ 8. These people had no excuse for their ignorance about who Jesus was.
- _____ 9. Mankind can only be forgiven through Jesus.
- _____ 10. Jesus' prayer was consistent with his teachings.

Lesson Two

"Today, you will be with Me in Paradise"

The day of Jesus' crucifixion is divided into three periods:

9:00 to 12:00—Crucified at 9:00 AM

- "Father, Forgive them"
- "You will be with me in Paradise"
- "Woman, Behold your son"

12:00 to 3:00—Period of Darkness.

3:00 to 6:00—Final Hours

- "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me"
- "I thirst"
- "It is finished"
- "Father, into your hands I commend My spirit"

This unusual statement of Jesus was said to one of the Robbers that was being crucified on each side of Him.

Background to this Utterance

The Apostle Paul, by inspiration, quotes an Old Testament passage (Deut. 21:23) that said: ***"Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree."*** Crucifixion was a shameful as well as a horrible way to die. It was done "outside the city" (Heb. 13:12-13)...adding to the reproach! This person is put outside of this city....he doesn't belong here—the idea of rejection. Jesus was crucified on the hill called "Calvary"—literally, the place of the skull. (Matt. 27:33). Another part of the shame was having to carry one's own cross (Jn. 19:16-17) through the streets of the city. Jesus was able to carry His own cross for a ways until He fell under its weight because of the ordeals that He had already undergone. Then, they crucified Him between two thieves to add to the shame. To top it all off, they put a sign over him....***"This is Jesus the King of the Jews."*** This is what happens to you when you rebel against Rome!

To further add to Jesus' shame and pain was the mocking!

- a) Those who passed by!

Matt. 27:39-40 _____

Ps. 22:7 _____

They poured their contempt upon a man that had greatly disappointed them.

- b) Chief priests, scribes, and elders (Matt. 27:41-43)

**"He claimed to save others, but can't save Himself."
"If He is the king....let Him prove it by coming down."**

The world's philosophy is to take care of #1 first.

The world will follow such men like Napoleon. He sacrificed millions of lives for his own selfish ambitions.

But Jesus, who sacrificed Himself for others, is derided by the world! They were right in their statement. He saved others but He could not save Himself. If He had, there would have been no redemption for mankind!

"He claims to be the Son of God; let's see if God will save Him."

Don't you know that this one hurt above all others.

- c) The Soldiers joined in the mockery (Lk. 23:36-37)

They offered Him vinegar (sour wine) and then took it away in mockery. They also added: **"If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."**

- d) Then, to top it all off—the robbers joined in to mock (Mark 15:32; Matt. 27:44; Lk. 23:39).

Not just one of them, but both of them at first. Can you believe it.....even those being crucified with Him mocked Him.

The Bright Spot in all of This Ordeal!

One of the Robbers being crucified had a change of heart for some reason. He was obviously aware of all that had transpired and observed Jesus' forgiving spirit to those crucifying Him. Notice what happened because of his change of heart:

1. He rebukes his fellow-robber:

Lk. 23:40 _____

2. He expressed his belief in Jesus' innocence:

Lk. 23:41 _____

3. He expressed his belief in Jesus' power to forgive:

Lk. 23:42 _____

The Jews had been taught from youth up about a coming Savior

and king who would set up His kingdom. This man must have wondered if somehow this is that person that the prophets said would come. His request indicates some kind of an understanding of these concepts.

With all the shame and reproach thrown onto Jesus, what the robber had to say was like a breath of fresh air to his rack body! No wonder, Jesus could gladly say to him: ***Very I say unto you, Today you shall be with Me in Paradise!***" (Lk. 23:43). And what a blessing to a dying man to be assured that He would be where Jesus was before the day was over—a desirable place! Jesus went into Hades upon death (Acts 2:24-29). The desired place in Hades is Paradise....or to the Jew "Abraham's Bosom." (Lk. 16:22-23); but there was an undesired place in Hades in which people are tormented (Lk. 16:22-23, 25-26, 28). The Robber was looking for hope in death and Jesus gave it to him.

Important Lessons to be Learned

1. **Jesus came to call sinners to repentance (Mk. 2:17).** This man was a sinner in need of forgiveness and Jesus promised him what he needed.
2. **God's willingness to save is strongly emphasized (Rom. 5:6-8).** Here was an unfaithful child of God, bringing reproach upon the name of God by his ungodly deeds—but repented and turned to God for forgiveness.
3. **It stresses the need to put our trust in Jesus to save us (Jn. 14:6).** He alone has the power to save sinners. This man had to have realized the need to so trust in Jesus.
4. **Repentance is never too late if sincere! (as far as we know). (2 Pet. 3:9).** Mercy is extended to all who desire it, but the desire must be sincere. We are warned against hardening our hearts to the offer of God's mercy (Heb. 3:15).

Concluding Thoughts

It is important to realize that the Robber died under the Old Covenant system. The New Covenant was put into force until after Jesus' death and preached for the first time on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). True repentance upon our part as sinners is shown by our doing what God commands of us (Acts 2:38). Those who refuse show that their repentance is not real or sincere.

Questions for Discussion

True or False

- _____ 1. The total darkness came just before Jesus' last saying from the cross.
- _____ 2. Trying to bring shame on people is part of the punishment factor.
- _____ 3. A man of Cyrene called Simon illustrates Jesus' statement: *"If any man would follow Me, let him take up his cross and follow me."*
- _____ 4. The term, "Malefactor," is used in one version to identify the robbers.
- _____ 5. The sign put over Jesus' head was a way of respecting His claims of kingship.
- _____ 6. The chief priests and scribes mocked Jesus but the elders of the Jews did not.
- _____ 7. All of the soldiers mocked Jesus.
- _____ 8. One of the Robbers changed his mind about mocking Jesus.
- _____ 9. One of the first things that the Robber did was to rebuke his fellow-Robber.
- _____ 10. It is never too late to repent!

Lesson Three

"Woman, Behold Your Son!"

There is a difference in counting time in John's Gospel. He starts his counting by the Roman system (from midnight), while the other Gospels used the Jewish system (from 6:00 AM). There were three sayings of Jesus that occurred between 9:00 and 12:00. We have looked at two of them; now we turn to the third: ***"Woman, Behold your son; son behold your mother"***

Background to this Utterance

John's account tells about Jesus being crucified between two thieves at the place of the skull, called "Golgotha." (Jn. 19:16-18). A sign was placed over his head in three languages: Hebrew, Roman (Latin), and Greek. This may account for the small variations in the 4 Gospel accounts. All do have the main sense of what was written: ***"Jesus, King of the Jews."*** The chief priests wanted the sign to read: ***"He said, I am King of the Jews."*** But, Pilate refused to change the wording and stated: ***"What I have written, I have written."*** (Jn. 19:19-22). John pictures in detail the soldiers dividing up Jesus' clothing. But one piece they kept intact and cast lots for it—thus, fulfilling a prophecy about Jesus.

Ps. 22:18 _____

The unbelieving soldiers established the credibility both of the Word of God and of Jesus being the Son of God (Jn. 19:23-24). At this time, there stood by the cross of Jesus four women and one man.

Jn. 19:25 _____

Jesus' Third Saying from the Cross

Jesus looked down upon his weeping mother, and the other women, and John and said to her: ***"Woman, behold your son!"*** Then, He turned to John and said: ***"Son, behold your mother!"*** And it was stated that John took Mary to his own home to see after her. Some have advocated that Jesus was saying to Mary, behold your son.....that He was talking

about Himself. But this has never made sense to me. John was related and was evidently in a position to care for her.

Things that could be Involved in this Saying:

1. **Jesus was an ideal Son.** He loved His mother. He had shown her honor and respect all his life (Lk. 2:51).
2. **Jesus was the unselfish Son.** In His agonizing time of death, He still honored His mother. As the weight of the sin of the world was about to be placed upon His shoulders, He had a concern for the well-being of the one who brought Him into the world. He entrusted her care to a trusted disciple, John.
3. **Jesus was the concerned Son.** He must have realized that there was no earthly comfort for her now. She stood watching her son die an agonizing, slow death. He must have know of Simeon's prophecy in Lk. 2:34-35: **"A sword shall pierce through thy own soul."** Mary had to know the greatness of Jesus. The miracles at His birth, the wise men bringing gifts, the Angels singing; and at age 12, when He said: **"I must be about my Father's business."** And especially during His public ministry....all the teachings, His life, and the great miracles that He was able to perform....she had to be impressed with His greatness. This may have added to the grief, not understanding why He had to die such a horrible death. Truly, a sword did pierce her soul!

But why entrust Mary's care to John? Joseph is presumed dead at this time. None of Jesus' brothers believed in Him and they were married and out on their own. John's mother was a sister to Mary. John was a devoted disciple—who better to entrust her care to?

But why address her at "woman?" We are not told! But it is possible that He did not want abuse heaped upon her by the mob of people; or, maybe, He was signifying the ending of the fleshly relationships at death!

John, take care of My mother as you would your own mother! Give her the re-assurance that there is that one close by who still cares. In her older years and in time of loneliness and sorrow, be a son to her! And from that hour on John did just that!

In all of the above assumptions, we are looking at the human side of Jesus!

Lessons to be Learned

1. **Jesus set a perfect example of unselfishness!** He was other-people-centered! He was not concerned just for His needs, but for the needs of others.

Phil. 2:1-4 _____

2. **Honor and Respect should be given to parents!** Jesus' words and actions are a rebuke to every child who will not show concern and respect for their parents. Jesus strongly rebuked the Jewish people for their efforts to get around this responsibility.

Mark 7:9-13 _____

3. **Jesus gives us the assurance that God, the Father, does care.** He showed concern and respect for his murderers, the thief, and now to His fleshly mother and her needs. But most of all, He showed His concern for all men by dying to redeem us from eternal punishment. Thus, when God makes a promise that He cares for us, we need to believe it (Matt. 6:33).
4. **We need to stand with Jesus even in the face of danger.** All others had forsaken Jesus, but the women and John. At least, they were not by the cross as these five people were. They had the courage to identify with Jesus in His death. In Jesus' darkest hour—when others mocked and reviled Him; when they could do nothing to comfort Him in His dying hour....except to just be there! But the emphasis was upon Jesus' efforts to comfort and care for His earthly mother!

Concluding Thoughts

What better example could we pattern our lives after than Jesus. In life, He was wholly given to helping others. And in death, it was still the same—concern for others. But his concern did not stop with only those living at the time He lived, but for all men, in all ages, He showed His concern by dying to set us all free. Jesus is in truth and reality man's only **"true hero!"** Her is the perfect man and the perfect and only redeemer for sinful man.

Questions for Discussion

True or False

- _____ 1. John's accounting of time is different than the other Gospels.
- _____ 2. There were four sayings of Jesus before the three hours of darkness.
- _____ 3. Jesus was crucified with two thieves (robbers), but He was not in the middle.
- _____ 4. The sign over Jesus' head was in 4 different languages.
- _____ 5. The soldiers cast lots for all of Jesus' things.
- _____ 6. There were four women who stood by the cross when Jesus talked to His mother.
- _____ 7. The Scriptures state that Jesus was subject to His parents as He grew up.
- _____ 8. Jesus did not call the name of His mother as He talked to her.
- _____ 9. Jesus strongly rebuked the Jewish people for their efforts to get around their responsibility to their parents.
- _____ 10. John and the women identified with Jesus in His death by being there.

Lesson Four

*"My God, My God: Why have you
Forsaken Me?"*

After Jesus had asked John to care for His mother, there came a period of three hours of darkness over the land. We believe that it was a supernatural darkness. Some suggest that it was "Nature's" way of mourning for her Creator! Others suggest that the Father could not bear to watch such a sight. We are not told why, but we are told that such happened and was to happen!

Amos 8:9 _____

Whatever the reason, it would certainly have conveyed a lesson for those who were experiencing it. It could have even been a rebuke to the cruel and brutal mockers. It is believed that it may have been towards the end of the darkness that Jesus uttered His fourth saying: **"My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"** Jesus cried this in Aramaic, which was the common language of the Jews. He would have had to pull up His body with what strength He could muster and catch a deep breath in order to cry aloud with such great anguish. This saying was a quoting of the Messianic Psalm 22:1.

The Shame and Horror in This Cry

To die such a death was said to be a curse (Gal. 3:13; Deut. 21:22-23). Such a death was degrading for humans, not to be looked upon any longer than necessary. The idea was to remove the unspeakable thing as quickly as possible so the land will not be defiled. It was Joseph of Arimathea that helped to take the body of Jesus down so it would not be left on and on (Matt. 27:57-60).

But this curse was more than the pain and agony of physical death, as bad as it was.

Isa. 53:4-6 _____

This great affliction arose from within the soul of Jesus. It certainly is unthinkable that the Father was displeased with His Son! He was doing

exactly what the Father wanted done. Jesus had committed Himself to doing this in the Garden. This deep agony had to come from something else. He was bearing the weight of the sins of the whole world. He was being chastised in our place for our sins. The Father laid on Him the iniquity of us all. It was as though the light of God's countenance was withdrawn for a time and He was left alone to bear the penalty of man's sins to their full and crushing weight. They pressed on Him in all their loathsomeness and horror. He felt the shame and burden of man's sins as though they were His Own. He entered into their dreadful consequences, submitting to their curse.

2 Thess. 1:7-9 _____

Those who have made a study of the Greek language point out that the Jesus was probably enduring our punishment during the three hours of darkness and at the climax, he cried out: **"Why have you forsaken me?"** There was no audible reply recorded by the Father, but the darkness was lifted and the Sun shone again as though to promise a New Day for Mankind is coming!

The Propitiation of Jesus' Death

1 Jn. 2:1-2 _____

Reconciliation with God was made possible through Jesus' death for us. He bore the wrath of God to atone for our sins. The anguishing words of Jesus here well-illustrate the terribleness of dying without God and His forgiveness.

Isa. 53:10-12 _____

The following Scriptures help to emphasize that He suffered in our place:

Rom. 4:24-25 _____

Rom. 5:8-10 _____

1 Pet. 2:24 _____

2 Cor. 5:21 _____

Heb, 1:3; 2:8; 2:17; 8:26-28; 10:12 _____

What Jesus endured here should illustrate the terribleness of sin and it's punishment. Jesus illustrated the crying agony of one who dies without God and without hope. He is trying to help us see what it will be like to be without God—to be lost eternally.

The Glory of the Cross

Jesus' death for me means that I can be freed from the guilt, shame, and penalty of my sins. It means that I can share in the riches of His grace through the endless ages of eternity. To some, the cross is a stumblingblock; to others, foolishness—but to those who believe, it shows the love of God, the grace of God, and the power of God to save lost mankind. In the death of Jesus, Satan did his worst; but, Jesus did His best! He bore the penalty of our sins and annulled the rights of the Devil to accuse and enslave us.

Rev. 12:10-11 _____

God's love found a way to justify the sinner, to be merciful to him, without being unjust in His actions and without passing lightly over the righteous demands of His Law.

Concluding Thoughts

The cross thus becomes a supreme revelation of the glory of God. It was foreshadowed and prophesied of in the Old Testament. It was fully revealed in the New Testament and is the central theme to the glory of God. God has nothing more wonderful to reveal to man than the cross of Calvary. Heaven knows nothing so glorious as the death of the Lamb on the cross. It is the "New Song" that millions of Redeemed will sing around the throne of God. All eternity will sing of this significant event to the praise and adoration of God. The combined wisdom of the Angelic Host could never have conceived of anything that could match God's wisdom. The cross will stand forever as God's Masterpiece for a lost world to look upon. The Apostle Paul said that he would not glory save in the cross of Christ. And no wonder, for he fully experienced its great wonder. He received forgiveness and experienced a transformation from sinner to saint by the grace of God. What more can God do than what He has done in the sacrificing of His Son in our behalf?

Questions for Discussion

True or False

- _____ 1. The Scriptures tell us why the darkness came upon the land during the suffering of Jesus.
- _____ 2. The darkness was not foretold, but such had to happen anyway.
- _____ 3. Jesus spoke this saying in the Hebrew language.
- _____ 4. The Scriptures pronounced a curse on those who die on a tree.
- _____ 5. This saying was foretold in the Old Testament.
- _____ 6. It was Joseph of Arimathea that helped to take the body of Jesus down off the cross.
- _____ 7. Jesus' suffering was more than the pain of physical agony.
- _____ 8. Jesus suffered the consequences of our sins.
- _____ 9. What Jesus suffered should help us to understand a little of what it will be like to be lost forever.
- _____ 10. The glory of the cross is because of what happened to Jesus.

Lesson Five

"I Thirst....It is Finished"

This lesson will deal with **two** of the sayings of Jesus. Men are born to live and to eventually die! But Jesus came into the world in order to die. Two Scriptures clearly show this to be true:

Rev. 13:8 _____

Isa. 53:12 _____

Even early in Jesus' ministry He indicated that the cross was before Him.

Jn. 2:19 _____

Jn. 2:20-21 _____

The statement of John the Baptist, when He saw Jesus coming towards him, was not: "*Behold your king*" or "*Behold the Son of God*" or even "*Behold, your great prophet that was to come!*" Even though Jesus was all three, John said: "***Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.***" (Jn. 1:29). He was God's Lamb to be sacrificed for the sins of mankind. And Jesus, when He gave reference to Jonah, was indicating His coming death and being in the grave for a short period before being raised up. Then, at the end of His public ministry, He indicated that His death was imminent!

Jn. 12:23-27 _____

Matt. 26:36-46 _____

Events Leading up to the 5th Saying

Jesus had endured very bad beatings at His trials and now had been on the cross for at least 6-7 hours. In order to get His breath, He would have to push up with his feet constantly. With the loss of blood and the loss of water out of His body, He was in need of some liquid— so, He cried out,

"I Thirst!" He had possibly had no liquids since the night before. The need for liquid can bring intense suffering itself.

The Human Cry for Liquid

Jesus was no ascetic! He had refused the drink at first because it was used to stupefy the person. He wanted to endure the pain consciously. He had resolved to drink the cup that the Father had given Him. Jesus knew that all had been completed and was willing to taste the sour wine that they gave to Him on a sponge.

It is hard for us to understand how Jesus could be God in the flesh, but this is what the Scriptures teach! Efforts have been made to even explain such away. One of the early false doctrines of the sect known as "Gnostics," denied that God could become flesh. Both the Apostle Paul and John wrote letters dealing with this false teaching.

Jn. 1:1, 14 _____

1 Jn. 4:1-3 _____

1 Jn. 2:18-25 _____

But this simple cry, **"I thirst!"** forever settles the fact of His humanity. But this human cry also illustrates the great humility of Jesus. He was the Creator of this universe! He fed 5,000 people at one time by multiplying the loaves and fish. He could turn water into wine. He had the power to satisfy His thirst. But he chose rather to suffer the shame and torture of this death to the fullest, and only took relief when all was over. This shows the depths of the humiliation that Jesus was willing to endure to identify with us.

Heb. 2:14-18 _____

1 Pet. 4:1 _____

The 6th Saying of Jesus

After receiving the sour wine on the sponge, Jesus said: **"It is finished!"** Jesus came in the fullness of time to fulfill a purpose!

Gal. 4:4-5 _____

Rome's dominance in the world led to a reasonable peace everywhere. Travel was easier and safer. There was a universal language for communications, and a reasonable social order. Also, the Jewish people had been scattered over the globe. They had their synagogues everywhere. They taught their "One True God" to Gentiles who would listen and accept such. They also taught of the coming of the Anointed One. All was in readiness for His coming....and He came! He came to finalize the work of God to redeem fallen man.

Jn. 4:34 _____

Jesus' death on the cross gave man the hope He needed in order to be right with his Maker!

Man's sins, rebellions, and wickedness's were judged by God in the death of Jesus on the Cross! Jesus had accomplished the great PLAN of God, so He could say with assurance, "***It is finished!***" Luke's account states that at this time "***the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.***" (Lk. 23:45).

The Cost of Redemption

When Jesus said, "***It is finished!***" we must understand that such was finalized.....but at great cost.

1. **It cost God His Son (Jn. 3:16).**
2. **It cost Jesus His life (N. 10:17-18).**

But the cost is not complete until man is willing to pay his part of the cost for redemption.

Jesus came to call men to repentance towards God (Matt. 9:13). God had no intentions of redeeming man so He could continue in his rebellious pride. If man's pride is not humbled, he will continue in his sinful ways (Jas. 4:6-10; Rom. 6:1-2). The purpose of redemption is reconciliation! It is bringing estranged man back to God. In the words of Jesus, we must "***deny ourselves, and take up our cross, and follow Jesus!***"

Concluding Thoughts

May we never be deceived into believing that we can save ourselves by our own good works. It cannot be done! God had to provide redemption

for man through His Son. When Jesus said, "*It is finished!*"....God's Plan of Redemption was completed!

Questions for Discussion

True or False

- _____ 1. John the baptizer's statement about Jesus in Jn. 1:29 was "Behold, the Son of God."
- _____ 2. Jesus did not really know about His coming death until He was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- _____ 3. A part of Jesus' suffering on the cross was the intense thirst from loss of liquids.
- _____ 4. The cry for liquid by Jesus would indicate His humanity.
- _____ 5. The "Gnostics" taught that God could not come in the flesh.
- _____ 6. Jesus could have miraculously had water given to Him by Angels, if He had so chosen.
- _____ 7. When Jesus said "It is finished," He was not talking about the hope of a resurrection.
- _____ 8. Man's sins, rebellions, and wickedness's were judged by God in the death of Jesus on the Cross.
- _____ 9. God, Jesus, and Man all have a cost to pay in Redemption.
- _____ 10. Those who are unwilling to pay their cost for Redemption, will pay the cost of their sins.

Lesson Six

*"Father, into Your Hands
I commend My Spirit!"*

One of the great songs in most of our song books is entitled: **"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."** It should be so very obvious why the Cross is so central to all preaching and teaching of the Gospel. But at the same time, the last sayings of Jesus on the Cross are showing some most wonderful attitudes on the part of Jesus.

Events Leading up to the 7th Saying

After the three hours of darkness, we have recorded four final sayings:

1. **"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"**
2. **"I Thirst"**
3. **"It is finished"**
4. **"Father, into Your Hands I commend My Spirit!"**

These sayings give some idea of the great suffering Jesus endured on the Cross and that it was finally over. It was more than physical suffering! It was suffering spiritual separation from God. Jesus tasted of death for every man (Heb. 2:9). God's Plan of Redemption has been completed in Jesus' death (1 Pet. 3:18). As a result, Jesus was able to give Himself up to death. These cries go from one extreme of great anguish into a quiet and peaceful resolve.

The Veil of the Temple was rent...signifying its removal by God, and that the way was now open for man to enter the Holy of Holies (Heaven). There was also an earthquake (not sure of the time and sequence).

The Centurion's reaction to Jesus was something a little unexpected: **"Surely, this was a righteous man."** He had witnessed:

1. **Jesus' noble generosity and forgiving spirit;**
2. **His brave patience;**
3. **His majesty in suffering;**
4. **That He had no terror of death;**
5. **And....all the events occurring about them.**

Lk. 23:47 _____

It seems that there was an atmosphere during these last hours of people feeling regrets and remorse over what had just taken place.

Lk. 23:48

Indications connected with this Saying

1. **That Jesus was now ready to die.** His work was done, completed, perfected. Redemption has now been made possible. He was now ready to meet mankind's great appointment of physical death.
2. **That His Spirit would go back to God who gave it.** He committed his spirit back to the God of the universe (Eccl. 12:7). His spirit would go into God's keeping, control, to whatever God decreed for it. The Scriptures foretold that His soul would go into Hades (Ps. 16:8-11; Acts 2:29-32; Lk. 23:43; Matt. 16:18). But He was to come forth from Hades and be re-united with His earthly body, which was changed, and would see that His church was built.
3. **That the way to die is with great assurance.** It is a solemn thing to die or to quit earth's well-known scenes and loved ones. But all men will die sooner or later. The important question is....."**How will they die?**" Jesus showed men how to die as He faced death Himself.
 - a) **With Perfect assurance and peace.** His words showed a deep serenity of spirit...there was a calmness and tranquility of the soul,
 - b) **This assurance came from a life of submission to the Father.** He had completed His work that He had been sent to do. And now, in finality, he was ready to yield Himself up into the hands of His Father.
 - c) **To face death with the Father's name on His lips.** It is a name of strength and peace. Jesus rested in the assurance of parental love.
 - d) **To face death with assurance of what the future holds.** He knew He would be raised from the dead and would ascend back to the Father and sit at His right hand of glory where He would receive glory, honor, and power. He knew that He would be safe in the arms of His Father (Ps. 23).

Ps. 31:1-5

Concluding Thoughts

When we face death, will we be able to say with great assurance: **"It is finished!"** Or can we say with the Apostle Paul: **"I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."** Can we sincerely say **"Father, into Your hands I commend my Spirit!"** We know that Stephen did: **"And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'"** (Acts 7:59)

As death looms before us all, how are we preparing for it? How are we preparing to face it?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

True or False

- _____ 1. Paul's statement: "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" says that He only preached about the crucifixion of Christ.
- _____ 2. I do not believe the death of a man can be used by God to forgive all of wrongs?
- _____ 3. The sayings of Jesus give us an indication of how much suffering He endured.
- _____ 4. Jesus suffered physically and spiritually on the cross.
- _____ 5. The Veil of the Temple was miraculously rent asunder.
- _____ 6. The Centurion thought of Jesus as being the Son of God.
- _____ 7. The mass of people around the cross began to have feelings of regrets and remorse over what they had done.
- _____ 8. Jesus was able to let go of His life and die.
- _____ 9. When our spirit goes back to God, it goes to Heaven.
- _____ 10. Christians should have a firm assurance of the future as they face death.

Use Space for

