

## Text Outline

### Luke 23:34

- I. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father,
  - A. forgive them,
  - B. for they do not know what they are doing.”
- II. And they
  - A. divided up his clothes
  - B. by casting lots.

### Luke 23:43

- <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him,
  - A. “Truly I tell you,
  - B. today you will be
    - 1. with me
    - 2. in paradise.”

### John 19:26-27

- <sup>26</sup> When
  - A. Jesus saw
    - 1. his mother there,
    - 2. and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby,
  - B. he said
    - 1. to her, “Woman,<sup>a</sup> here is your son,”
    - 2. <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.”
  - C. From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

### Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

- A. “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*”
- B. (which means
  - 1. “My God, my God,
  - 2. why have you forsaken me?”).

### John 19:28

- <sup>28</sup> Later,
  - A. knowing
    - 1. that everything had now been finished,
    - 2. and so that Scripture would be fulfilled,
  - B. Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”

**John 19:30**

**<sup>30</sup> When**

- A. he had received the drink,
- B. Jesus said, "It is finished."
- C. With that,
  - 1. he bowed his head
  - 2. and gave up his spirit.

**Luke 23:46**

**<sup>46</sup> Jesus**

- A. called out
  - 2. with a loud voice,
  - 3. "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."
- B. When he had said this, he breathed his last.

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## Conceptual Outline

**Theme: The last words Jesus spoke from the cross demonstrated His love for man.**

### Luke 23:34

- I. **Jesus prayed to the Father for His Enemies**
  - A. **forgiveness**
  - B. **They were ignorant of what they were doing.**
- II. **The soldiers' hearts were callous**
  - A. **Their concern was their greed**
  - B. **Gamble was their way of coping with their brutal job**

### Luke 23:43

- A. **Jesus used His favorite solemn phrase for the last time, "Truly I tell you..." to promise**
- B. **eternal life today to the criminal**
  - 1. **The criminal will have His presence**
  - 2. **in paradise.**

### John 19:26-27

- A. **Jesus saw the needs of his mother & John**
- B. **He joined them together as family based on their mutual love for Him.**
- C. **From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.**

### Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34

**By 3 p.m., as Jesus took on the sins of the whole world, He cried out to God (not His usual address as Father) to express His pain in their mutual separation. God forsaken by God because of our sins.**

### John 19:28

**Later,**

- A. **knowing**
  - 1. **that the work of salvation had now been finished,**
  - 2. **and so that Scripture would be fulfilled,**
- B. **Jesus expressed His physical and spiritual thirst.**

**John 19:30**

**When**

- A. he had received the drink,
- B. Jesus said, "It is finished."
- C. He voluntarily gave up his life as
  - 1. he bowed his head
  - 2. and gave up his spirit.

**Luke 23:46**

**Jesus**

- A. committed His Spirit to His Father
- B. and died voluntarily.

## Questions & Potential Answers:

**As we study the 7 words from the cross, we'll take an insider look at the heart & thoughts of Jesus as He was nailed on the cross where He demonstrated again the extent of His love for us. At 9 a.m. in the morning of Good Friday, He was led to Golgotha where He was nailed with 2 criminals one on each side. This is when He spoke the first 3 words. At noon until 3 p.m., darkness came over the land. He was silent until 3 p.m. when He spoke the last 4 words and gave up His life.**

### Read Luke 23:34

1. Can someone briefly tell us what was happening before Jesus spoke His first words from the Cross?
  - Jesus was just nailed on the cross.  
Whom was He praying for?
    - The immediate context would be the people who crucified Him
      - the soldiers
      - Pilate
      - High Priests
      - Jewish leaders
      - the crowd
    - Ultimately, it's all of us because our sins nailed Him on the cross.  
What did He offer to people who were against Him?
      - He first forgave them Himself & He prayed that the Father would forgive them.  
Why did He pray for them?
        - He was compassionate on their ignorance. "...they do not know what they are doing."  
From this brief prayer, what do we know about the heart and thoughts of Jesus even when He was in severe pain?
          - His focus was on forgiveness of sins.  
What did He claim to be in this prayer?
            - By calling God "Father", He's claiming to be the Son.
            - By His power to forgive, He's claiming to be God.
  - 2. What was the response of the immediate people He prayed for? Why were they untouched by His prayer?
    - They were ignorant and oblivious to what's going on.
    - They were preoccupied with what they can gain from the old clothes. Business & greed blinded them.
    - Their hearts are calloused. They probably have nailed many to the cross before. They're numb to the cry.
  - 3. What is Christ's prayer for you today? What might help you respond properly to His love for you?

**Read Matt 27:44, Luke 23:39-43**

4. From these passages, what do we know about the 2 people who were crucified with Jesus?

- They were rebels, criminals. They deserved to be crucified.
- They both ridiculed Him.

What might have prompted the change in one of them? What did he recognize about himself and about Jesus?

- Maybe Jesus' forgiveness of those who crucified Him. Maybe His title as King of the Jews. Maybe His behavior on the cross.
- The criminal's admissions:
  - Self: Did wrong & deserving of death.
  - Jesus: Did nothing wrong; King; He will not die; He can help him after death.

5. How did Jesus respond to the penitent criminal? What did He promise him?

- He promised His presence & eternal life.

For the last time in His life, He used that phrase "Truly I tell you." What is the significance of this phrase at this time?

- In the world of lies that crucified Him, He's still the Truth. He left no room for doubt in the promise of paradise.

In promising eternal life, what was Jesus claiming to be?

- The Truth
- God

6. Think about the life of the penitent criminal, did he waste his life? What did he do to deserve such forgiveness? What can you conclude about salvation from this example?

- He did nothing except his confession of sin.
- He may have wasted most of his life & did evil but he repentance set an example for generations to come. He's the first to enter His Kingdom.
- Salvation is all His doing, His grace. None can be deserving. He can make a wasted life become significant.

**Read John 19:26-17**

7. Even in His great anguish, whom did He notice next? What needs did He recognize?

- He notice Mary & John.
- Mary has need for be cared for in her grief and old age.
- John might need her spiritual guidance.

Why did He entrust His mother to John since He had at least 4 brothers (James, Joseph, Simon and Judas) & sisters as well? What united Mary & John together?

- They mutual love for Christ united them deeper than blood and physical relationships. His brothers were non-believers at the time.
- He sets a model of Christian love and mutual support. This is the beginning of His family, His Body, His Church.

8. What example do John & Mary leave for the Church? Is there a need in someone older whom you can care for?

**Read Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34**

9. Why did Jesus cry out like this? Did His cry indicate that He was an unwilling sacrifice?

- He's separated from God for the first time as He bore the sins of the world.

- No He's expressing His spiritual anguish.

Why did God forsake Him? Instead of address God as Father as His usually did, He addressed God as my God?

- Because of our sins He had to be separated from God. God is more proper as their usual intimacy is broken.

In this word of Christ, what was He claiming to be?

- Man

10. What can we learn from Jesus as we experience separation from God because of sin?

- The extent of His love for us and our salvation caused His to be punished severely by God.
- Sins separate anyone from God. We must repent and ask for forgiveness because we can have a relationship with God. His continuous cleansing is vital in maintaining a good relationship with Him.

### Read John 19:28

11. Why did Jesus use His precious last breaths to express that He was thirsty? What kind of thirst was it? (Read Ps 69:21; Ps 22:14-15; Jn 4:13-14; Jn 7:37-38; Rev 7:16)

- To fulfill Scriptures
- After hanging on the cross for 6 hr and nearing death, Jesus was probably very dehydrated. But His thirst is not limited to the physical. His separation from God caused spiritual thirst.

In admitting His thirst & accepting the wine vinegar, what was He claiming to be?

- Man. He fully experienced human pains & sufferings - physical, emotional, & spiritual. This is the extent of His love for us!

### Read John 19:30; Luke 23:46

12. What were Jesus' last 2 words?

- "It is finished." "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

What was being finished/accomplished?

- The master plan for salvation of the world.

What kind of finish was it from the surface and in reality?

- On the surface, it was a gruesome, sad, and depressing defeat.
- In reality, Christ's obedience to death brought victory over death and sin. God's plan of salvation is being completed. Man can be free to live lives as God designed it to be.

From the last words with the Father, what can you conclude about His relationship with the Father?

- It's so intimate that even a temporary separation of a few hours and 3 days was more unbearable than the pain of the cross.

13. How did the evangelists describe His death? Why didn't they say "He died"? What was He claiming to be?

- "gave up his spirit", "breathed his last"
- It was a voluntary giving up of his life. He didn't die in defeat. It was His choice to give up. Death had no power over Him.
- Both God and Man

14. From these 7 words, can you identify what were in His thoughts? Who were in His heart?

- His focus was on forgiveness, salvation, fulfillment of scriptures.
  - His heart ached for man's sin, man's needs & not being in relationship with God.
15. The extent He went through to show us His love was His call for us to respond to Him as the criminal did to repent, believe, enjoy His presence, and live with eternal hope. Take a moment to respond to His call.

## Questions

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