

Title: 7 Sayings of Christ from the Cross (5/23/18)
Needs of Others

1. *Father forgive them, for they know not what they do* (Luke 23:34).
2. *Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise* (Luke 23:43).
3. *Woman, behold your son: behold your mother* (John 19:26-27).

His Condition

1. *Eli Eli lama sabachthani?* ("My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?", Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34).
2. *I thirst* (John 19:28).
3. *It is finished* (John 19:30).
4. *Father, into your hands I commit my spirit* (Luke 23:46).

Not all seven sayings can be found in any one account of Jesus' crucifixion.

The ordering is a harmonization of the texts from each of the 4 gospels.

In the gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jesus is quoted in Aramaic, shouting the *fourth* phrase only, and cries out wordlessly before dying.

In Luke's Gospel, 1st, 2nd, 7th sayings occur.

In John's Gospel, 3rd, 5th, 6th sayings can only be found in John's Gospel.

I. Jesus Focusses on The Needs of Others:

A. The Need of Forgiveness

(Luke 23:33-34) *And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. 34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*

He could have come down from the cross

He could have commanded legions of angels
come & destroy everyone.

(Matt 26:53) *Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?*

Instead, He chose to stay on the cross, for ME & YOU
He asked the Father to not pour out judgment upon the people. (PRAISE THE LORD for His MERCY!)

(John 10:11-16) *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

People miss parts of the crucifixion & its importance.
Even the dividing up of the clothes had a special
significance, according to (John 19:23-24)

It was a fulfilment of Scripture -

(Ps. 22:18) *They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.*

God at His Best, Took Man at his Worst & forgave him. Lk 23:34

He forgave those that caused it: Lk 23:34; Is 53:12
The Jewish leader did not realize the ramifications of there sin:

Martha Stewart – Lied over 40K – Cost her 400Mil.

It was the Father’s Plan:

Gen 3:21 “*Coats of Skins*”

Gen 22:13 “*Ram caught in the thicket*”

Ex 12:22-23 “*Passover Lamb*”

Heb 13:11-12 “*Jesus paid our sin debt in blood*”

Christ was submissive: Lk 22:42 “*Not my will, but*”

Lk 23:46 Christ followed the plan to the end.

Jesus upon the cross was Jesus' prayer for forgiveness for those who were crucifying him: the Roman soldiers, and apparently for all others who were involved in his crucifixion (Luke 23:35-39)

Jesus exhorts his followers to love their enemies and to pray for those who persecute them. (Matt 5:44) *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

This reflects Jesus' teaching of love & forgiveness for all, including those who oppose or even attack them.

B. The Need of Salvation

(Luke 23:42-43)

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

He helped the one who wanted it: Lk 23:39-45

Two men were in reach: *Illus: The Three Crosses*

Christ was still able to save: Within moments of death Christ still had the power over death and sin. *Illus: 6 feet from heaven!*

One died in his sin, the other reached out for heaven:

He knew he was a sinner: Lk23:40-41a

He knew who Christ was: Lk 23:41b Heb 11:6

He Called upon Christ: Lk 23:42 “*Lord*” (Rom 10:9-10,13)

Some of you could be just a few feet from heaven:

This is as close to heaven as a lost man ever gets.

This is as close to hell as a saved man ever gets.

Will you mock God’s final call to you?

Will recognize your need, and call upon Him?

He focused on the spiritual needs of others,

The Thief knew *the significance of what was happening to him.* (Luke 23:39-41)

His confession of guilt opens the way to forgiveness.

The only use of the word "paradise" in the Gospels (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) for the Garden of Eden, Jesus may have meant a return of humanity to the presence of God.

It refers to the abode of the blessed dead.

Catholics who teach purgatory move the comma after the word *today*: "Truly, I say to you today, you will be with me in paradise." to justify the teaching.

Biblical Greek, the language of the text, had no punctuation,

C. The Need of Personal Care **(John 19:26-27)**

When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

Focused on the physical needs of others;
Specifically, of taking care of his family.

Jesus entrusts Mary, his mother, into the care of a disciple, John.

It is thought that John was Jesus' cousin, b/c Salome is thought to have been Mary's sister or aunt.

B/c it is assumed that Joseph is dead.

Jesus' Brothers were not yet believers,
It was his way of entrusting care to another family member.

The Catholic Church interprets this phrase beyond just the disciple, saying that Jesus was giving his mother to all of the church, & all of the church to her.

The Catholic Church: use as proof that Mary did not have any other children, b/c if she did have other sons who could have taken care of her, Jesus would not have needed to give her over to his beloved disciple.

Mary had other sons, (Matt 13:55-56)
Such a transfer would have been insulting to his brethren in the context of 1st-century Jewish culture.

Others teach Jesus took this step because Mary's other children were not yet believers in him as the Messiah.

Jesus, on the verge of giving up his life, having had given up everything else in his life, was now giving up his last "attachment," to this world, which was his mother. He would be dying in absolute poverty.

II. Jesus Focusses on His Condition:

A. Jesus Focusses on His Spiritual Condition **(Matthew 27:46)**

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
Same as the quote in (Mark 15:34)

He prayed to the one who designed it: (Matt 27:46)

Jesus, the sinless one, became sin for us.
(2 Cor 5:21) *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

As such, God (the Father), in his holiness, had to turn his back on Jesus, representing total abandonment.

The fellowship & unity between the Father & the Son, for all eternity past, was broken.

The spiritual anguish, Jesus felt, of being abandoned by his Father: was so intense, that it would take all *eternity in hell* for us to experience it to the same degree as he did.

Why those cast *forever* into the lake of fire have no end to their suffering.

It will take that long for them to pay for their sins by themselves.

Sin has horrible consequences, even if someone else (Jesus) has to bear them.

The only saying that appears in 2 Gospel accounts.

This saying is given in Aramaic with a translation (originally in Greek) after it.

in both Gospels, the verses immediately following this saying: those who hear Jesus' cry imagine that he is calling for help from Elijah.

The slight differences between the two gospel accounts are most probably due to dialect.

Matthew's version seems to have been more influenced by Hebrew, whereas Mark's is perhaps more colloquial.

Old Testament quoted: (Psalm 22:1) *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?*

(v 1-2) The Father seems to have deserted the Son.
The contrast between v 5 and v 6.

(Vs 5) God saves him who calls upon by rejecting Christ in (vs 6)

(vs 14-18) A prophecy of Christ's suffering.

(vs 25a) A Prophecy of his message

(vs 27-31) A Prophecy of his exaltation.

This "gulf of separation" that occurs between God the Father and God the Son, in the death of Jesus, has

been described by the theologian Jürgen Moltmann as 'death in God' or a "Separation in the Trinity".

B. Jesus Focusses on His Physical Condition

(John 19:28)

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, "I thirst".

Jesus' physical anguish increased to an intensity that paralleled his spiritual anguish.

(Thirst is just one of the aspects of this anguish.)

They offered him vinegar drink: (Jn 19:29)

OT fulfilled: (Ps 69:21) *They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.*

Gall was a sedative used to deaden pain.

It was offered to him, just before his crucifixion.

(Matt 27:34), but Jesus voluntarily *refused* to take it.

They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

He was fully Conscious.

He was willing to experience Fullest of the physical pain, in order that he would be able to *consciously* accomplish what he came to die for - namely, the salvation of all who would put their trust in him.

The Pain & Suffering was referred to as a cup that he would drink of.

(John 18:11) *Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?*

C. Jesus Focusses on His Emotional Condition

(John 19:30)

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished": and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Jesus announces that his work, is completed.

Full Atonement! ('the debt is written off')

That the debt of humanity to God is paid in full,

Gk:(τετέλεσται) is best translated by a simple English word: "completed", or "finished".

"It is finished" was a legal term.

It meant that the debt was "paid in full."

When a Roman Prisoner was paroled.

The same Greek Word is written on their Parole form.

Here, it was in reference to a debt that *we* owed, because of our sins... and it indicated that Jesus' redemptive work on the cross was completed.

Jesus' willingness to endure the spiritual agony resulted in a spiritual *victory for who believe.*

D. Jesus Focusses on His Spiritual Condition

(Luke 23:46)

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.

OT Fulfillment: (Psalm 31:5) *Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.*

Into your hand I surrender my spirit. You redeem me, Yahweh, God of truth.
(God judged His sacrifice as sufficient)

'my spirit' not a disembodied soul, but to simply to give one's self: *"I put myself in your hands now."*

This occurred immediately after "It is finished," He bowed his head and giving up his spirit. Just as his Body had to suffer the most extreme judgment, on our behalf, so did his spirit.

Three days later, we discover that this is not the end of the story. Victory would come, as he broke forth from the tomb, physically alive again.