

**Last week** we looked at Jesus **AS** He was **Approaching the cross**

We **looked** at His **Love** - **SHOWN** in His **Radical Humility** -  
**SET** in the events of the **night before** the Cross

& that **set the stage** for the **single darkest day** of all time -  
the day that **Jesus** Christ would **bear the sin** of the world

**Since** the **Triumphal Entry** - the **enemies** of Jesus had been  
**plotting** and **scheming** his **Murder**

While **Jesus** had been **preparing** for **the pre-ordained time** -  
that would **SHATTER** the **hold** of **Sin & Death** on all of **Creation**

**Let's Pray** - before we look at that "**Eternity Changing**" Day

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**When the time was RIGHT**

**Jesus** was **arrested** in the **Garden**

**Tried illegally** in the **shadows**

**Presented** as a **criminal**

**Beaten** mercilessly, **flogged** to within **an inch** of His life

**Demeaned**, **Belittled**, **Mocked**, **Ridiculed**, & **Spat** upon

**Isaiah 50:6 Prophesied of Jesus (ESV)**

***6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.***

& **that** is **exactly** what He **did** - thru out the **displays** of **ruthless**  
**brutality** - He **gave himself** to those who would put Him on **the Cross**

## **Isaiah 53:7 (ESV)**

***7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.***

***he opened not his mouth . . . Meaning He never spoke in His Own Defense - He never corrected His accusers***

***He never called down the legions of Angels that were at His Beck & Call at every moment***

***But Jesus DID speak - He spoke ON the CROSS***

***He spoke carefully - & purposefully & with Great Eternal meaning each time***

***After the humiliating brutality - & barely making the Agonizing Trek to Golgotha under the weight of his own Cross***

***Jesus then Laid Himself on that Cross - & the Roman Soldiers Drove Railroad Spikes through His Wrists & Feet***

***Sending Excruciating Pain like Electrical SHOCK continually thru His body from the severing of the crucial nerves***

***Then the cross was raised - & Dropped into the hole - Dislocating his arms and shoulders - & making it more & more difficult to breath***

***& then - Jesus spoke His Last Words***

***He spoke SEVEN times from the Cross & every word had Eternal Meaning - Every word was a Sermon***

***We're often intrigued by the last words of a person Dying - But How much MORE - when that person is Jesus Christ & All of Eternity is about to be changed - on the Cross***

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The 1st Msg from the Cross - was a Msg of

## 1) Forgiveness Offered

The first words from Jesus on the Cross came just AS

His Murderers were Driving Spikes into His body

& Dropping the Cross with a bone breaking THUD into its hole  
& as the mockers were reviling & shouting insults at Him

AS the Blood of the Sacrificial Lamb began to flow -

Our Great High Priest was already interceding for us

These first words of Jesus from the Cross are all-encompassing

They encapsulate the REASON for the CROSS - & They reveal the  
REASON Jesus Christ came to Earth in the 1st place

& they were spoken at the moment of the most excruciating pain -  
AND when the evilness of man was at a frenzied level

Read with me - the SURROUNDING Vs's - of this FIRST Statement

### Luke 23:33–37 (ESV)

**33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.**

**34(b) . . . And they cast lots to divide his garments.**

**35 And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"**

**36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine**

**37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"**

In the Crucible of the Evilness of Mankind  
In the most Excruciating Physical Pain inflicted by Man  
In the face of the Vile Insults of His Murderers . . .

## Jesus PRAYED

### He prayed in Luke 23:34 (ESV)

*34 . . . “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” . . .*

**We’re you there?**

We’re you there when Jesus Prayed *“Father, forgive them . . .”*

Was it YOUR Sinfulness? - Was it YOUR Evilness?  
That Jesus was interceding for?

### Romans 6:6 (ESV)

*6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing . . .*

Jesus was praying for those “Physically Involved”

But His PRAYER was for ALL who would ever RECEIVE  
the Gift of His Salvation - Including YOU

It was the Roman Mallet that drove the Spike thru His Hand

But it was YOUR SIN that PUT HIM on the Cross  
& it was His LOVE for YOU that Held Him there

*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*

Those who Physically INFLICTED the Agony of the Cross  
Didn’t know they were Murdering the Son of God

& maybe today - YOU are not aware - that it was YOUR SIN  
that actually PUT the Son of God ON that Cross

THIS is WHY Jesus came to Earth

THIS is WHY Jesus was on the CROSS

He was there IN YOUR PLACE

Paying the Full Penalty for YOUR Sin

Dying in Your Place - So that you would Never HAVE to

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The 2nd Msg of the Cross - was a Msg of

2) Eternal Life - Guaranteed

Maybe that 1st Prayer of Jesus - Would PEIRCE YOUR HEART -  
Like it Did to ONE of the Thieves who were Crucified with Him

It seems like (initially) both criminals may have joined in the mocking

But hearing this Prayer of Forgiveness from Christ

Softened the heart of ONE of these Hardened Criminals

Luke 23:39–42 (ESV)

*39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"*

*40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"*

*41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."*

*42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."*

This thief has a serious problem

that should scream LOUDLY to each of us

**Arthur Pink says:**

He could **not WALK** in **Righteousness**  
**because** he had a **NAIL** in his **feet**

He **could not perform** any **Good Works**  
**because** he had **NAILS** in his **hands**

He **could not live a better life** - **because** he was **DYING**

**This thief** was **Utterly HELPLESS** - & **SO** are **YOU & I**

The **truth is** - We are in **the same place** as this **Thief**

When it **comes** to **DOING something** in order to be **accepted by God**  
- we are **absolutely, completely, & utterly HELPLESS**

This **thief KNEW** he was **dying** - & **he knew** he had **only ONE HOPE**  
- **to BELIEVE** that **Jesus Christ IS** who He **says He IS**

& **in response** to the **Prayer of Faith** from this **thief**  
**Jesus spoke** His **second words**

**Luke 23:43 (ESV)**

***43 And [Jesus] said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."***

**No Chance** to get **Baptized** or take **Holy Communion**

**No Chance** to be a **member** of the "**Only Right**" church

**No Stop Off** in **Purgatory** - **No Nap** in **Soul Sleep**

**No ANYTHING** that we **like** to **Connect to Salvation**

**NOTHING but FAITH** - **NOTHING but FAITH** - **NOTHING but FAITH**

A **FAITH** that was **Willing** to **Speak up**

Out of a **CONVICTION** for **WHO** Jesus Christ **IS**

& in that moment - a Great Eternal Exchange was taking place between Jesus Christ & that Sin-Filled Thief

JESUS was TAKING ON that thief's SIN  
& GIVING that Thief - His own RIGHTEOUSNESS

& His promise to YOU today - is AS SURE as it was - to that THIEF

If you will Recognize - you are "Helpless" to save yourself  
& look in Faith to Jesus Christ on the Cross

Jesus will GIVE YOU - His Forgiveness & His Righteousness  
just like He did this thief

In the picture of the Two Thieves - is the message  
that each of us MUST CHOOSE whether to RECEIVE  
the Offer of Forgiveness in Jesus Christ - OR NOT

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The 3rd Msg from the Cross - was a Msg of

### 3) Compassion

30 yrs earlier - In Luke Ch 2 - when Joseph & Mary brought the baby Jesus into the Temple to dedicate him according to Jewish Custom

An old Prophet named Simeon was there - to whom the Lord had promised he would not die until he had seen the Messiah

That day Simeon took Jesus into his arms & spoke to God - saying he was now ready to die - because he had seen the Messiah

Then he prophesied about Jesus & the Nation of Israel -  
& ended his prophecy with a very direct statement to MARY

In Luk 2:35 he said - *And a sword will pierce your very soul*

Mary was now experiencing the PIERCING of that Sword

Of the few there at the cross who loved Jesus -  
among them no agony could compare to Mary His Mother

The face she kissed as a baby was now spit upon  
& marred beyond recognition

The hair she combed was now matted with blood  
from the crown of thorns

Her son hung helplessly, & innocently, as a criminal  
mocked, abused, beaten, & dying

*& there was nothing she could do*

& Jesus fully aware & in control - Met His mothers EYES

As they both remembered a childhood of Loving Care  
Jesus SPOKE his Third words from the Cross

Mary was standing with the Apostle John & other women  
*including John's own mother*

& in John 19:26–27 we read (ESV)

*26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"*

*27 Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.*

tho dying in the most Excruciating Pain - AND knowing the  
Full Judgment of God was about to be poured out upon Him



Jesus had such great compassion on his mother -  
& he committed her care to his best friend - the Apostle John

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The 4th Msg from the Cross - was a Msg of

#### 4) Jesus, Forsaken In OUR PLace

It was TIME

In these incredible Next Words from Jesus on the Cross -

Was the culmination of the Plan of Redemption  
Worked out before the foundation of the World

THIS was the Turning Point -

This moment makes God's Plan of Salvation Possible

The Moment Jesus Dreaded Most

& the moment God the Father Dreaded Most

But if THIS moment had NOT occurred -

you & I would still be Lost in our Sin & Separated from God

It was High Noon - but at this Moment DARKNESS fell over the land

This is the moment - that 1Peter 1 says

even the Angels can't fully understand

#### Matthew 27:45–46 (ESV)

*45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.*

*46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

(eh-lee, eh-lee, le-mah, sa-bakh-than-ee)

**THIS is the Moment - that 2Cor 5:21 says  
*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us***

**THIS is the Moment - that God poured out the Full Judgment  
required to PAY for our sin - upon the Sinless Christ**

**Jesus Christ was FORSAKEN by God - In our Place  
so that we would Not have to be**

**Galatians 3:13 (ESV)**

*13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a  
curse for us . . .*

**Jesus was Forsaken by God on the Cross  
So that we could be Forgiven By God for Eternity**

& we are either going to be SAVED  
by Accepting Christ's PAYMENT in our place . . .

Or God will be Forced to Forsake us because of our Sin

**THIS was Jesus Experiencing  
the JUDGMENT of God upon sin - IN OUR PLACE**

**For God to REMAIN God - This Judgment MUST come upon SIN**

It either falls on Christ in OUR PLACE

Or we CHOOSE to Receive that Judgment ourselves

**We must NOT Take Our Sin LIGHTLY  
- it REQUIRES God's JUDGMENT**

& **THIS is the moment -**

Jesus TOOK that Judgment - IN our PLACE

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The 5th Msg from the Cross - was a Msg of

## 5) The Humanity of Jesus

In JOHN 19:28 - Jesus said simply "***I THIRST***"

Just as it was Prophesied in Psalm 22:14–15 (ESV)

*14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;  
15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks  
to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.*

Psa 22 details the specific effects of Crucifixion miraculously well  
& this is exactly what Jesus was feeling - as Fully MAN

Jesus Was Fully God AND Fully Man

He suffered the Unimaginable Pain of Paying for our Sin - as GOD  
& he suffered the Unimaginable Pain of the Crucifixion as MAN

God entered into YOUR Suffering - Fully Human -

In Fact Heb 2:10 says He was made PERFECT Thru His Suffering

BUT - Was there another Reason Jesus said "I Thirst" ??

Let's read ALL of - John 19:28 (NKJV)

*28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now  
accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "***I thirst!***"*

Watch carefully - in Psa 69 - A PROPHECY of Jesus it says in

Psalm 69:21 (ESV)

*21 . . . and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.*

Now let's finish reading in

**John 19:29 (ESV)**

***29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.***

**trust me - a little Vinegar on a sponge - wasn't going to help the Crucifixion Thirst of Jesus**

But it was **critically important - every Prophecy** about this moment be **FULFILLED** - so Jesus made sure - **this Prophecy** was *Fulfilled*

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**The 6th Msg from the Cross - was a Msg of**

**6) FINALITY**

IN **ONE Greek Word** - **Lies** the **Assurance** of our **Salvation**

**ONE WORD** says - **If we** will put **our Faith** in **Jesus Christ** - our **debt to God** will be **completely & forever PAID IN FULL**

In Fact **this Word** was used to **Stamp Records** Of **Debt**  
**"PAID IN FULL"**

**If you belong** to **Jesus Christ** (or **If** you **WILL**)

He **cried out** this **WORD** on **YOUR BEHALF**

**TETELESTAI !!** - **IT - IS - FINISHED !!!!**

**Your Debt** has been **Paid in Full** & **Taken OFF** the Books

**We read in John 19:30 (ESV)**

***30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," . . .***

The Work of YOUR Salvation Was FINISHED  
The PRICE to Pay YOUR DEBT in FULL - Was PAID

**IT - IS - FINISHED !!!!**

You cannot ADD one thing to the Finished work  
of Salvation in Jesus Christ

No More than that pitiful Thief could have come down  
& added something to HIS Salvation

No Religious Ritual - No Observance - No certain church -  
Not speaking in tongues - or being baptized a certain way -  
or anything else - No thing - No thing - Nothing

You either RECEIVE the FINISHED work of Jesus Christ  
completely BY FAITH - Or you REJECT it - (that's IT)

When Jesus Christ finished the work of OUR salvation -  
He said - **IT - IS - FINISHED!** - & We Should BELIEVE HIM

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**The 7th Msg from the Cross - was a Msg of**

## **7) RELEASE**

For the First 3 hrs - Jesus suffered under the Hands of Men

For the Second 3 Hrs He suffered under the Wrath of God

**Finally - Luke 23:46 (ESV)**

*46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.*

**& we read at this point from Matthew 27:51–54 (ESV)**

***51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.***

***52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,***

***...***

***54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”***

**There was NO WAY that the EARTH Could NOT Respond to this most significant moment of all of Time**

**The EARTH - & the Believers IN it - HAD to Respond**

**AND - - It was at THIS MOMENT - ON this DAY - that the Passover Lambs were being Killed at the Temple**

**& it was at this Moment that the Proclamation of John the Baptist came to Pass - when he said in**

**John 1:29 (ESV)**

***29 . . . “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!***

**THIS was the Lamb of God - & THIS was Him - PAYING for the Sin of the World**

**This work was Now Finished - ALL of creation was responding**

**& Jesus Committed His Spirit into the Hands of the Father**

**No One TOOK His life from Him - This was PLANNED - From the Foundation of the World**

***. . . & now - that work was over***

**Oh yeah**, there's **still** the **Conquering Death & the Grave** part  
- **We'll get** to that **Next Sunday**

But **that** is a **Foregone Conclusion** -  
Because **NO Grave** can hold the **Author of LIFE**

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**SIN** had been **Conquered**  
**Death & the Grave WOULD BE Conquered**

The **only thing** now - is for **YOU to DECIDE**  
**Whether** to **ACCEPT** or **REJECT**  
the **Gift of Salvation** Jesus **Died that day** to Give you

**IF** you will **put your Faith** in Jesus - You **will Never Die**

**Because** on the cross that day - Jesus died **IN YOUR PLACE**  
& **Paid** the **Full Penalty** for your Sin

& **IF** you **Reject** His **Free Gift of Salvation**  
**The Bible** does **not offer** you **any other way** to be **saved**

**Acts 4:12 (ESV)**

*12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

**Just knowing** about the **SEVEN TIMES Jesus Spoke** from **the Cross**

**Should** be **enough** - for us to **Clearly SEE** our **NEED for a Savior**  
& to **Gladly Receive** the **Free Gift of Salvation**  
**That God** has **offered us** in **Jesus Christ**

**Let's Pray**

(credit Erwin Lutzer)