

The Seven Sayings

Jesus Led to Calvary

After Jesus was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death, Pilate had Him crucified.

And after they had mocked Jesus, the soldiers stripped the robe from Him and put His own garments back on Him and led him away to crucify Him. And He went out bearing His cross. And as they went their way, they came upon a man of Cyrene named Simon, and they compelled him to carry Jesus' cross.

And there followed Him a great crowd of people, and of women who bewailed and lamented Him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the childless, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' For if this is what they do when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Him.

Seven Sayings of the Crucifixion

Jesus hung on the cross for about six hours; during this time, seven sayings of Jesus are recorded in the four accounts. The order of these events is not completely clear.

- (1) Luke 23:33-34 – But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Saying is in the Imperfect Tense. This indicates that Jesus was repeating this while being crucified. What is on Jesus' mind is not His trauma but sadness for the sin and its repercussions.

Forgive is “ἀφίημι *aphiemi*.” In this context, it means to not hold to obligation. The activity of those who crucified Jesus demands judgment. Would this demand justice immediately? Jesus saying these words could indicate a request to stay the hand of judgment that was to come down immediately.

Another possibility is that the forgiveness is about the day of judgment and that Jesus was requesting that this sin would not be calculated at that time (Matthew 11:22, 24). I do not think this is correct.

This is not a plea for their redemption or being reconciled to God, which is only accomplished through believing in Jesus. In an example of grace and mercy, Christ requests that the Father does not hold this sin against them.

- (2) Luke 23:43 - “I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise.”

Many observations can be made with this interaction. The insurrectionist did not do anything that would precipitate being saved other than believe in Jesus.

Paradise is “παράδεισος *paradeisos*.” This is only used two other times in the New Testament (2 Corinthians 12:1-4; Revelation 2:7). This word does not indicate a holding place in the earth but the spiritual realm of God. In response to the believing thief, Jesus stated that when they died, he would be with Jesus in heaven.

(3) John 19:26-27 - “Woman, here is your son!” and “Here is your mother!”

Jesus is the eldest son; He is responsible for the care of His mother, who is now widowed. With His death, the eldest son was to declare someone responsible for her. The brothers were not there, something that was their responsibility as well, but they were not believing in Him and were hostile toward Jesus. It was only after the resurrection that at least James and Jude came to terms with the true identity of Jesus.

When Jesus saw His mother standing near the cross with the Apostle John, whom He loved, He committed His mother’s care into John’s hands. And from that hour, John took her to his own home. Jesus, as an example of His selflessness and desire for Mary to be cared for, passed off the responsibility to John, making sure she was cared for after His death.

(4) Matthew 27:46 – This tells us that about the ninth hour, Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?”

This is a fulfillment of Psalm 22:1-8

Matthew 27:43 – This is also a fulfillment of Psalm 22.

Here, Jesus was expressing His feelings of abandonment as God placed the sins of the world on Him—and because of that, God had to “forsake” Jesus. Jesus, in His humanity, was separated from the Father, and He cried in anguish.

(5) John 19:28 - “I am thirsty.”

This is an allusion to Psalm 69:21: “They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.” By saying He was thirsty, He prompted the Roman guards to give Him vinegar, which was customary at a crucifixion, thereby fulfilling the prophecy.

(6) John 19:28-30 “It is finished!”

τετέλεσται tetelestai - to complete an activity or process;” “to carry out an obligation or demand;” “to pay what is due.”

This verb is in the Perfect Indicative. This means that work has been completed, and the effect of the work is perpetual.

The word itself is used twice in John 19:28-30 and in the exact same form. Verse 28 – “After this, Jesus knew that now at last all things ‘τετέλεσται...’”

This leads us to the question, what did Jesus accomplish? Most people read this and simply state that the payment for sin had been accomplished. This word group “τέλος telos” is used six other times in John. Here are some pertinent uses:

John 4:34

John 5:36

John 13:1

John 17:1-4

Based on these passages, there is a work to accomplish. This includes:

1. The signs of Jesus; miracles to demonstrate who He is.
2. There is a prophecy to bring to completion.
3. There was a message to proclaim both to Israel and to the whole world.
4. There was a goal in mind: to love His disciples as an example.
5. There is a sacrifice to make – to be handed over to godless men and to die as a sacrifice for sin.

It is this last point that we normally focus on. The sacrifice of Jesus completed for all time what the shadow sacrifices of the Old Testament could only typify. Now, there is no other sacrifice for sin. The sin problem that causes man and creation to be separated from God is now fully atoned once and for all.

(7) Luke 23:46 - “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” After the sacrifice is accepted and knowing His death was imminent, He entrusted Himself to the Father as an example for us to follow as well (1 Peter 2:21-25).

Conclusion

The statements of Jesus demonstrate that His love for the world, His love for His enemies, and His love for His family were complete, and His mission was fulfilled.

But there is still more. Our day does not end with the crucifixion of Jesus.