



Introduction

- Luke 23:13–16
- Luke 23:18–25

Seven Last Words of Christ

None of the gospel accounts contains all of these sayings. Three are found in Luke; three are found in John; and the one in Matthew is also in Mark. The traditional order is

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
4. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34
5. I thirst. John 19:28
6. It is finished. John 19:30
7. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit! Luke 23:46

The First Word

- Luke 23:26–38
- Luke 11:4
- Luke 17:3
- Luke 6:35–36
- Isaiah 53:12
- Acts 7:59–60
- Jesus left the subjects of the prayer indistinct because this applies to all who come to Christ.
- All these that were involved in the crucifixion of Jesus had no idea the significance of the event.

The Second Word

- Luke 23:39–43
- The criminal calls Jesus the king.
- The criminal asks for grace.
- Jesus tells the man that today he will be with him in Paradise.
- The salvation for the thief on the cross was immediate.
- The salvation for the thief on the cross was eternal.
- The salvation given to the thief on the cross was personal.
- The salvation of the thief on the cross was certain.

The Third Word

- John 19:25–27



- From the cross Jesus focuses on his mother and John.
- Luke 2:34–35
- Mary was no longer to think of Jesus primarily as her son but as her Lord.
- Jesus was not only interested in the salvation of his mother, but that she also has care from and fellowship with other believers.
- Roman Catholics believe that Jesus was entrusting the apostles and the church to Mary.
- Jesus made clear in the upper room discourse that he was entrusting the apostles and the church to the Holy Spirit.

The Fourth Word

- Matthew 27:45–49
- The darkness indicated judgment. This shows he was under God’s wrath.
- Jesus is quoting Psalm 22:1.
- The Father did not forsake the divine Son, the second person of the Trinity.
- The Father forsook, turned his back on, poured out his wrath on, the human nature of Jesus.
- The person of Christ was forsaken by the Father.
- Romans 3:24–26
- Jesus endured the wrath of God so we could be forgiven and declared righteous.

The Fifth Word

- John 19:28–29
- Matthew 5:17–18
- Psalm 69:19–21
- Jesus says, “I thirst,” so he will be given sour wine to drink so Psalm 69:21 will be fulfilled.
- Jesus not only fulfilled his passive obedience, his death on the cross, but also his active obedience.
- This saying is tightly linked to the sixth saying.

The Sixth Word

- John 19:30
- The active and passive obedience of Jesus was complete.
- Hebrews 10:1–10
- 1 Samuel 15:22
- All has been accomplished to redeem Christ’s people out of Adam and place them in himself.

The Seventh Word

- Luke 23:44–46
- John 10:17–18
- Romans 1:16
- May we always have a loud voice when it comes to the gospel.



Conclusion

The seven last words of Christ have by tradition been given descriptions.¹

1. Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. This is God's grace to forgive sinners through Christ.
2. Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise. This is God's salvation through Christ for the repentant.
3. Woman, behold, your son! Behold, your mother! This is God's creation of a new spiritual family in Christ.
4. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? This is God's abandonment of Christ to suffer divine judgment as he bore our sins.
5. After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." This is God's fulfillment of his promises and prophecies in Christ.
6. It is finished. This is God's complete accomplishment of salvation by Christ.
7. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit! This is God's acceptance of Christ's spirit because he completed his work, in anticipation of his resurrection.

¹ Joel R. Beeke and Paul M. Smalley, *Reformed Systematic Theology*, vol. 2, *Man and Christ* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020), 959.