

THE SEVEN SAYINGS OF JESUS FROM THE CROSS
(Matthew 27:32-44)

Introduction:

1. The Lord's last sermon was preached as He died on the cross.
2. His pulpit was the cross, an instrument of torture and death.
3. His hearers were a mixed multitude.
 - a. Angry Jewish leaders who continued to mock Him.
 - b. Hardened Roman soldiers who callously carried out His crucifixion.
 - c. Two thieves on crosses on either side of Him.
 - d. Despairing disciples who saw their hopes dashed by His death.
 - e. Weeping women who loyally stood by to the end.
 - f. His grieving mother and John, His beloved disciple.
 - g. Shallow spectators who had come for the show.
4. The Lord's sermon consisted of seven sayings.
5. There was one convert then but thousands later (Luke 23:42, 43).
6. The dying words of great men are deemed worthy of remembrance - how much more so the dying words of the Savior!

Discussion:

- I. "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY DO" (Luke 23:34).
 - A. Jesus' first thoughts were for His enemies.
 1. He had taught, "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matt. 5:44).
 2. Many die cursing their enemies but our Lord died as He had lived - with love in his heart for all men.
 - B. Was Jesus' prayer answered? If so, when?
 1. Some believe God forgave them even as they continued in their cruelty.
 2. If this is the case, then those who committed the most unspeakable atrocity were forgiven without repentance.

3. Repentance has always been a condition of forgiveness.
4. Jesus' prayer was answered on Pentecost (Acts 2:23,36-41).

II. "TODAY, YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE" (Luke 23:43).

- A. The two thieves joined in with the mob who mocked Jesus.**
1. One had a change of heart and rebuked his fellow thief.
 2. He admitted his guilt and Jesus' innocence (Luke 23:40,41).
- B. The penitent thief implored Jesus: "Lord, remember Me when you come in your kingdom."**
1. He was aware of Jesus, His claims, and His teaching.
 2. Jesus answered: "Today, you will be with Me in Paradise."
 3. The thief was a Jew; therefore lived under the Law of Moses.
 4. He only needed to repent to be in a right relationship with God.
 5. Baptism as a requirement of salvation was not given until the Great Commission was given (Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15,16).
- C. No one today can be saved as the thief was.**
1. The Law of Moses has been replaced (Col. 2:14; Heb. 7:12).
 2. Jesus is no longer on earth to pronounce sins forgiven.
 3. The terms of salvation under the New Covenant are different.

III. "WOMAN, BEHOLD YOUR SON! ... SON, BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER" (John 19:25-27).

- A. Mary, Jesus' mother, was standing near as was the beloved John.**
1. Although in the utmost agony, Jesus was mindful of Mary.
 2. He committed her to the care of His trusted disciple.
- B. Why didn't Jesus' siblings take care of their mother (Matt. 13:55,56)?**
1. Apparently, Mary was a widow at this time.
 2. Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him until after His resurrection (John 7:5; 1 Cor. 15:7; Acts 1:14).

IV. "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME" (Matt. 27:46)?

- A. Jesus lived in dread of the cross (Luke 12:50; Matt. 26:38,39; Luke 22:44).**
1. It was much greater than the dread of physical suffering.

2. It was the dread of separation from God!
 - B. Jesus experienced the separation from God that unforgiven sinners will feel in eternity (1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:21).
- V. "I THIRST" (John 19:28, 29).
- A. This is Jesus' only reference to His physical suffering.
 - B. He had refused "wine mingled with gall" for it was a narcotic.
 - C. He was given vinegar to drink (Psa. 69:21).
- VI. "IT IS FINISHED" (John 19:30).
- A. Jesus had accomplished the work He came to do (Gen. 3:15).
 - B. By His death and resurrection, He "abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10).
 - C. The Law of Moses was fulfilled and abolished (Matt. 5:17; Col. 2:14).
- VII. "FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT" (Luke 23:46).
- A. Man is made up of spirit, soul and body" (1 Thess. 5:23).
 - B. Our spirits come from God (Zech. 12:1; Heb. 12:7).
 - C. At death the body returns to dust and the spirit to God (Ecc. 12:7).

Conclusion:

1. Jesus died for the church, but we must enter it (Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28).
2. Jesus knocks at the door of our heart, but we must open the door (Rev. 3:20).
3. Jesus was crucified, but we must put sin to death in our lives (Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:5).
4. Jesus was buried and raised from the dead; but we must die to sin, be buried and raised in baptism to become new creatures and walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-5).
5. Don't die separated from God; come to Jesus today!

