

## The Seven Words of Christ from the Cross

1. Over time, there's been an interest in knowing what someone's 'last words' were. Why are people interested in that, do you think?

We're going to look at Jesus' words from the cross, traditionally called the seven last words of Christ.

### Read the following verses:

Luke 23:34; John 19:26-27; Luke 23:43; John 19:28; Matt 27:46; Luke 23:46; John 19:30

2. Considering the sayings above as a whole:

Who are they addressed to, and what does that tell us about Jesus?

How much are his words influenced by Scripture, and what does that tell us?

3. Look at **Luke 23:32-34**.

How does our culture view forgiveness today? Is it needed? How is it gained?

Read **Isaiah 53:11-12**. What do Christ's words tell us about him and about forgiveness?

4. Look at **John 19:25-27**.

What is remarkable about these words?

How do the death and resurrection of Jesus make true community and deep relationships possible?

5. Read **Luke 23:39-43**.

What does this episode tell us about how the approach of death can affect people?

What do Jesus' words tell us about mercy?

What do they tell us about what happens after death?

6. Read **John 19:28-29**.

How does Christ being thirsty fulfil the Scripture? (See Ps 22:14-15 and 69:19-21)

Considering what Jesus says to the woman at the well (John 4:13-15) and at the Feast of Booths (John 7:37-39), what is ironic about what Jesus being thirsty? What does this tell us about the atonement?

7. Read **Matthew 27:45-46**.

What is Jesus quoting and what does this tell us?

How can the Bible become so much a part of you that it shapes the way you respond to trials?

Was Jesus forsaken by God the Father? Why do you answer the way you do?

What Old Testament images/shadows shape our understanding of atonement and what part does separation play in these?

8. Read **John 19:30**.

What is finished?

Why should these words give us great hope and confidence?

9. Read **Luke 23:44-46**

What do these words tell us of Jesus' faith in God?

Read **Psalm 31:1-5**. What does Jesus quoting these words tell us?

Why do we need Jesus to stay faithful to the end?

## Les paroles du Christ depuis la croix

1. On a souvent cherché à connaître les "derniers mots" d'une personne. Pourquoi les gens s'intéressent-ils à cela, à votre avis ? Pourquoi cela intéresse-t-il les gens, à votre avis ?

Nous allons examiner les paroles de Jésus sur la croix, traditionnellement appelées les sept dernières paroles du Christ.

### Lisez les versets suivants :

Luc 23:34 ; Jean 19:26-27 ; Luc 23:43 ; Jean 19:28 ; Matthieu 27:46 ; Luc 23:46 ; Jean 19:30

2. Considérer les paroles ci-dessus dans leur ensemble :

A qui s'adressent-elles et qu'est-ce que cela nous apprend sur Jésus ?

Dans quelle mesure ses paroles sont-elles influencées par l'Écriture, et qu'est-ce que cela nous apprend ?

3. Regardez **Luc 23:32-34**.

Comment notre culture perçoit-elle le pardon aujourd'hui ? Est-il nécessaire ? Comment l'obtient-on ?

Lisez **Esaïe 53:11-12**. Qu'est-ce que les paroles du Christ nous apprennent sur lui et sur le pardon ?

4. Regardez **Jean 19:25-27**.

Qu'y a-t-il de remarquable dans ces paroles ?

Comment la mort et la résurrection de Jésus rendent-elles possibles une véritable communauté et des relations profondes ?

5. Lisez **Luc 23:39-43**.

Qu'est-ce que cet épisode nous apprend sur la manière dont l'approche de la mort peut affecter les gens ?

Qu'est-ce que les paroles de Jésus nous disent sur la miséricorde ? Que nous disent-elles sur ce qui se passe après la mort ?

6. Lisez **Jean 19:28-29**.

En quoi le fait que le Christ soit assoiffé est-il conforme à l'Écriture ? (Voir Ps 22:15-16 et 69:20-22).

Compte tenu de ce que Jésus dit à la femme au puits (Jean 4:13-15) et à la fête des kermesses (Jean 7:37-39), qu'y a-t-il d'ironique dans le fait que Jésus ait soif ? Qu'est-ce que cela nous apprend sur l'expiation ?

7. Lisez **Matthieu 27:45-46**.

Qu'est-ce que Jésus cite et qu'est-ce que cela nous apprend ?

Comment la Bible peut-elle faire partie de vous au point de façonner votre façon de réagir aux épreuves ?

Jésus a-t-il été abandonné par Dieu le Père ? Pourquoi répondez-vous comme vous le faites ?

Quelles images/ombres de l'Ancien Testament façonneront notre compréhension de l'expiation et quel rôle y joue la séparation ?

8. Lisez **Jean 19:30**.

Qu'est-ce qui est accompli ?

Pourquoi ces paroles devraient-elles nous donner beaucoup d'espoir et de confiance ?

9. Lisez **Luc 23:44-46**.

Qu'est-ce que ces paroles nous apprennent sur la foi de Jésus en Dieu ?

Lisez le Psaume 31.2-6. Qu'est-ce que la citation de ces paroles par Jésus nous dit ?

Pourquoi avons-nous besoin de Jésus pour rester fidèles jusqu'au bout ?

## Questions with Leader's Notes

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Read **Isaiah 53:11-12**. What do Christ's words tell us about him and about forgiveness?

4. Look at **John 19:25-27**.

What is remarkable about these words?

*[Jesus cares for people when he is in greatest pain; he calls his mother 'woman' - there is distance and yet relationship. He cares for her even in his death.]*

How do the death and resurrection of Jesus make true community and deep relationships possible?

5. Read **Luke 23:39-43**.

What does this episode tell us about how the approach of death can affect people?

What do Jesus' words tell us about mercy?

What do they tell us about what happens after death?

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How does Christ being thirsty fulfil the Scripture?

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*[He became thirsty that our thirst might be forever quenched]*

7. Read **Matthew 27:45-46**.

What is Jesus quoting and what does this tell us?

*[Psalm 22:1 - it tells us that in his darkest time his response was soaked in Scripture; that he is the ultimate innocent sufferer of Ps 22]*

How can the Bible become so much a part of you that it shapes the way you respond to trials?

Was Jesus forsaken by God the Father? Why do you answer the way you do?

*[Jesus is experiencing the God forsakenness of the sinner. God the Father turned his face away from Christ as he bore our sin, that we need never experience that. However, it is also true that, ultimately, there is no rupture in the Trinity. Christ bears the wrath of God for our sin, while at the same time the Godhead remains One. There is a mystery in the atonement that we cannot plumb the depths of.]*

What Old Testament images/shadows shape our understanding of atonement and what part does separation play in these?

*[The Scapegoat ritual of the day of atonement; the sinner being cut off from the people of God. These involve sin bearing, expulsion and separation from God and his covenant people.]*

8 . Read **John 19:30**.

What is finished?

Why should these words give us great hope and confidence?

*[Legal documents and bills were over-written with the word used here - tetelestai - paid in full. Christ has fully paid our debt. We are free of all condemnation because of him.]*

9. Read **Luke 23:44-46**

What do these words tell us of Jesus' faith in God?

Read **Psalm 31:1-5**. What does Jesus quoting these words tell us?

Why do we need Jesus to stay faithful to the end?

*[So frequently we do not stay faithful till the end - we give in to temptation, we fail to last the course. Jesus didn't. He endured where we fail. Our trust is in him not in ourselves - and he endured to the end! He is our perfect substitute.]*