

JESUS' DYING WORDS

INTRODUCTION

- A. Much can be said of an individual's dying words.
- B. The film "Citizen Kane" pursued the meaning of one man's final word: "Rosebud".
- C. What a person says in death is a testament of his life, of his character, and of where he will spend eternity.
- D. We focus now upon the last words Jesus spoke before dying on the cross.

I. "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM..."

- A. **Luke 23:34**
It is right to have a forgiving spirit.
- B. **Ephesians 4:31-32**
Since our Lord was interested in the forgiveness of His murderers, we likewise must be willing to forgive, rather than hold grudges. After all, the reason He let them kill Him was so that all people could receive forgiveness.
- C. **Matthew 6:14-15**
We must be forgiving to receive forgiveness.
- D. **Matthew 18:21-22**
There should be no limit to our willingness to forgive.
- E. **Luke 17:3-4**
Forgiveness is conditional upon repentance.
- F. **Acts 2:22-23, 36-41**
Some of those who were involved in crucifying Christ were forgiven.

II. "ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE."

- A. **Luke 23:39-43**

It is right to seek to be remembered by the Lord, and it is right to comfort others even when we suffer.

B. Psalm 112:1, 6

The Lord does remember the righteous.

C. Matthew 7:21-23

Only our obedience to Christ will result in Him knowing us.

D. Luke 16:19-25

We note that, immediately upon death, one finds either comfort or torment.

III. “WOMAN, BEHOLD YOUR SON!” & “BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER!”

A. John 19:25-27

It is right to remember and care for our loved ones.

B. 1st Timothy 5:4, 8, 16

Failure to provide for one’s own family amounts to the same as disbelieving altogether.

C. Ephesians 6:2-3

One has not truly honored one’s parents who has not provided for their needs.

D. James 1:27

We may as well have no religion at all if we won’t tend to the needs of the bereaved.

IV. “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”

A. Matthew 27:46

It is right to accept God’s will, even when we undergo trials for obeying it.

B. Psalm 22:1, 22-24

God hears the cries of the afflicted faithful.

C. 1st Peter 2:19-23

Suffering for righteousness’ sake is a just cause.

V. "I THIRST."

A. **John 19:28**

It is right to admit our needs and let others help.

B. **Philippians 4:13**

The strength we do have comes from a higher power.

C. **Acts 6:1**

When the needs of saints are neglected, it is right to make others aware of that need.

VI. "IT IS FINISHED."

A. **John 19:30**

It is right to finish the work God gives us to do.

B. **John 4:34; 17:4**

Jesus was determined to finish the work assigned Him by the Father, and that He did.

C. **Luke 2:49**

It's not too early to be about the Father's business!

D. **Luke 14:28-30**

Be prepared to finish the work.

VII. "FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."

A. **Luke 23:46**

It is right to commit ourselves to God's safekeeping.

B. **1st Peter 2:21-23; 4:19**

In that Christ committed Himself to God's protection, we also must maintain the same trust.

C. **2nd Timothy 4:6-7**

Toward the end of his life, Paul had confidence because he had maintained an honorable course.

CONCLUSION

- A.** The examples that Jesus set with these words are always right!
- B.** What will your last words be?