

Jesus Words on the Cross

10-02-16 PM

When we put the four gospel accounts together, we are enriched with a multi-dimensional account of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. In particular, the four gospels all record that key event that defines the word Gospel, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (see 1 Cor. 15:1-4 for this definition of the word "gospel"). In putting the accounts together, we find that there are seven things that Jesus said on the cross. It is remarkable when we consider the great ordeal He had experienced until that moment; indeed, that He could even speak, let alone speak clearly and coherently with detail is astounding.

1. Jesus Said: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." Luke 23:34

When taken up to die, Jesus did not bear evil towards His tormentors, but practiced that doctrine He preached: to love your enemies. Jesus statement did not absolve them of their sins, as later in Acts 2 Peter would preach to these people, remind them of the guilt in their actions, and tell them how to be forgiven (Acts 2:38). But it demonstrated that He loved His enemies, for while we were enemies of God, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

2. Jesus Said (to His mother and John): "Woman, behold your son!" "Behold your mother!" John 19:26

Jesus convicted the Jewish leaders of forsaking an important commandment in Matthew 15 when He told them that God's will is that a man honor his father and mother. Later in the New Testament we are reminded of the importance of honoring father and mother. In His last hours Jesus took time from the most important work in history (His Story) to ensure His obligation as a Son in the flesh was fulfilled.

3. Jesus Said (to the thief on the cross): "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." Luke 23:43

In the midst of the crucifixion two men who were dying with Jesus are seen. One, hearing Jesus' words and seeing events unfold concluded Jesus WAS a King, and would still have a kingdom. He confessed Christ, observed his sins, and turned to Him. Even while He was dying Jesus made intercession and saved.

4. Jesus Said: "I thirst!" John 19:28-29 / Psalm 69

Many of the things Jesus said on the Cross were said long before. Thus, His death on the cross was not a surprise change in plan, but the main plan itself. Prophecy in Scripture about this death is seen three times on the cross.

5. Jesus Said: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Matthew 27:46 / Psalm 22

Here Jesus quotes Psalm 22, which is a Psalm of David that speaks multitudes on the death of Jesus. It is not a declaration that God had indeed forsaken Him (consider Jesus last words), but a declaration of the manner of death and the observation of men. Isaiah said that, regarding the death of Christ, "*we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was*

pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4-5). We assumed God abandoned Him, for cursed is one who hangs on a tree. But Jesus was Himself the author and finisher of this plan.

6. Jesus Said: "It is finished!" John 19:30

The word here in Greek is “TETELESTAI”. It is translated different ways in the New Testament (Matt. 11:1 translated, "made an end". Luke 2:39, “Performed". Luke 18:31 "Accomplished". Acts 13:29, "Fulfilled”), all of which point to it being something brought to a close. Papyri receipts for taxes have been recovered with the word TETELESTAI written across them, meaning "paid in full". In this moment, our debt before God is paid in full.

7. Jesus Said: "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Luke 23:46 / Psalm 31

In His last words Jesus indicated His trust in the Father. Jesus said He knew where He was from and where He was going (John 7:28-29, 8:14). He has done the will of His Father, and can now rest from His works.

Considering the words of Jesus on the cross, we see that Jesus was a Man and God at once; He is the perfect mediator between God and man by this nature. We see His great love for mankind, and the individual people He knows. Finally, we are drawn to His great purpose and work.