

# Utterances From The Cross

No. 177

## Introduction.

- I. Nearly 2,000 years ago Jesus stood before Pilate, the governor of Judea. Pilate asked the multitude if they would like Jesus or Barabbas released. They cried out, “Barabbas.” He then asked them what he should do with Jesus. They cried out, “Let him be crucified.” When Pilate asked them what evil Jesus had done they shouted even more exceedingly, “Let him be crucified.” Pilate, seeing it was useless to argue with the multitude, washed his hands and said, “I am innocent of this Man’s blood, see to that yourselves.” The multitude cried out, “His blood be on us and our children.” Pilate then had Jesus scourged by his soldiers. When the whip was thrown across his back, the pieces of metal cut deep into His flesh. Following His beating, the Roman soldiers stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. They also put a crown of thorns on His head and a reed in His right hand. They mocked Him saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” They then spit on Him and drove the crown of thorns into His head with the reed and mocked Him again. They took off the scarlet robe and put back on Him His own garments. The cross was placed upon His beaten and bloody back. He was compelled to carry it down the streets of Jerusalem outside the city to Golgotha’s height. Christ broke down under the weight of the cross. He had lost so much blood from the scourging it was a wonder He was able to carry that burden even one step. Simon of Cyrene was compelled to assist Jesus in carrying the cross. When He reached Golgotha, the soldiers brutally nailed Him to the cross. His flesh ripped as the cross was lifted into its place. The soldiers placed over His head these words in mockery of Him, “This is Jesus the King of the Jews.” While on the cross the Jews began to mock Him saying, “Thou that destroyest the temple, and build it in three days, save thyself.” “If thou art the Son of God, come down from the cross.” “He saved others; Himself He cannot save.”
- II. In the midst of such remarks Jesus uttered seven dying statements. Each of these statement is worthy of our careful consideration.
  - I. “**Father, Forgive Them**” - Christ’s first statement was in regard to His enemies.
    - A. Those who died by crucifixion always had something to say about their enemies. They would usually curse them and even spit on them. All those present expected Jesus to do exactly that. Many of the Jews probably thought, “He said, ‘Love your enemies and do good to them who hate you.’ He will forget all that nonsense now. He will curse us.”
    - B. Christ surprised them by praying that His enemies would be forgiven. (Lk. 23:34).
      1. **This prayer was an utter shock to all.** Imagine forgiving those who had beaten Him, mocked Him, and had crucified Him.
      2. **This prayer is hard to understand.** It is clear the Jews and Romans knew Jesus was innocent and it was evil to put Him to death. But Jesus still said. “they know not what they do.” Evidently though guilty of committing sin they did not fully grasp they were crucifying the Son of God and committing the most horrendous sin in the history of mankind.
      - 3 **This prayer was not answered immediately.**
        - a. It was not answered until the day of Pentecost more than 50 days afterwards. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, charged the Jews of murdering the Messiah by the hand of lawless men (the Romans). Upon being convicted they had crucified the Messiah, the Son of God they were pricked in their hearts and wanted to know what they must do to be forgiven of their sins.

b. Peter replied. (Acts 2:38).

c. These men were not forgiven until they repented and were baptized for the forgiveness of sins as Peter commanded.

II. **“Today Shalt Thou Be With Me In Paradise”** - The second statement Christ made was to a thief. (Lk. 23:39- 43).

A. Jesus promised the thief they would be together “in Paradise” that day.

1. In order to understand the import of this statement, we need to define the word “Paradise.”

2. **This word originated with the Persians.** It meant a “beautiful garden” or “park.” Greek scholars tell us this word as used by Jesus meant the abode of the righteous dead. When a righteous man dies, his spirit does not go directly to heaven. It goes to Paradise and remains there until the judgment. Jesus was saying the thief was saved. To be in Paradise is to have salvation.

B. **Many people have used this example of the thief being saved to teach that baptism is not essential to salvation.** When baptism is taught to be essential, they are heard to say, “What about the thief on the cross? He was saved without being baptized. Baptism must not be essential.” Two objections can be raised to this reasoning.

1. First, it cannot be proven that the thief was not baptized. John the Baptist immerse thousands of Jews in the River Jordan. The majority did not remain faithful. It is possible that the thief was among those baptized. (Matt. 3:5, 6).

2. Second, this reasoning is not valid because the thief lived under a different law than we do today. He lived under the law of Moses which did not required a man to be baptized.

a. The law was abolished on the cross. (Rom. 7:4; Col. 2:14; Heb. 8:6,7; 10:9; Gal. 5:4).

b. When Christ died on the cross He established a new covenant or law. The new law requires a man to be baptized. (Mk. 16:16; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; 8:12, 13, 32-38; 10:48).

c. As you read through the New Testament, you find in each conversion that baptism was required for salvation.

III. **“Woman, Behold Thy Son”** - The third utterance Christ made was to His mother. (Jn. 19:26).

A. The first time I read this statement I thought Jesus was saying, “Mary, look at me your Son. I am dying on the cross.”

B. This was not the case at all. Jesus was not speaking Himself, but of John the apostle.

1. For He then said to John, “Behold, thy mother.” (Jn. 19:27).

2. Christ was committing the care of His mother to John. From that day forward John was to be considered as her son. The Bible says Mary lived in the house of John. (Jn. 19:27b).

C. **This statement should leave a great impression on our minds.**

1. Even while Christ was suffering on the cross, He felt a responsibility to care for His mother. He made arrangements for her care.
2. Children today have the responsibility to care for their parents. This is not the responsibility of the church or the government, but of the children. (1 Tim. 5:8).
  - a. The Bible says if a man does not provide for his own he is worse than an infidel and has denied the faith.
  - b. There is not a church in the brotherhood that would knowingly fellowship an infidel.
  - c. Yet, churches sometimes fellowship those who shirk their responsibility to their parents and hit the ceiling if they have to spend money on the support of parents. This is a shame. We should not fellowship such people in the church. They do more harm to the cause of Christ than a houseful of infidels would do.

IV. **“Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?”** - The fourth utterance of Christ is found in Matthew 27:45,46.

- A. The meaning of this difficult statement appears to be this. Because of sin man deserves to spend eternity in hell. Christ came to the world to die for man’s sin that he might not have to suffer this punishment.
- B. On the cross Christ suffered in our place. He suffered all the torment we deserve on the cross. He had to bear this suffering without help.
  1. The Father could not come to His aid if was to become our Savior.
  2. He died alone in our place. (Isa. 53:5, 6).
- C. Now since Christ has suffered for us, we do not have to be punished. God will save those who will believe on Jesus.

V. **“I Thirst”** - The fifth utterance of Christ was simply, “I thirst.” (Jn. 19:28).

- A. Earlier the Roman soldiers offered Him wine to drink mingled with gall. (Matt. 27:34).
  - 1.. **I used to think this offered Him to make His suffering worse, but this was not the case.**
  2. This was an act of mercy. The mixture was a sedative to deaden His sense of pain. He refused to drink it because He had to suffer that man might be saved.
- B. This second time He drank the sour wine without the gall. (Jn. 19:29, 30). It did not make any difference now. His agony for man was over. Never again will Christ have to suffer.

VI. **“It Is Finished”** - The sixth utterance of Christ was, “It is finished.” (Jn. 19:40).

- A. The mission of Christ was now complete. He had planned before the foundation of the world to come into the world and die for man. Christ had now suffered for sinful humanity.
- B. Atonement had been made.

VII. **“Into Thy Hands I Commend My Spirit”** - Finally Jesus said, “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.” (Lk. 23:46).

- A. His spirit then went to Paradise as He had promised the thief. His body was placed in the tomb where it laid for 3 days.
- B. On the morning of the third day the spirit of Christ returned to His body and He was raised from the grave.

1. Matthew records,

**MAT 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. 2 And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. 3 And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow; 4 and the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. 5 And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. 6 "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. 7 "And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going before you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."**

2. Following the resurrection of Christ He was on the earth 40 days. After this He ascended to be with the Father.

3. At that time the angels said to the disciples. (Acts 1:11).

### **Conclusion.**

- I. The angels promised Jesus is coming again. At that time He will saved all of those who have obeyed Him.
- II. We urge you to accept the Savior today. He died for you and wants to save you. The Lord will save you if you will turn from your sins and believing He is the Son of God be baptized for the remission of sins. Come to Christ today as we stand and sing!