

The last week of our Lord Jesus Christ, and events surrounding it, have been studied and taught often and in many different ways. After all, it is pivotal to our faith. So we are familiar with much of it. This week's study questions explore it in a very personal way. We will discuss some of them in a few minutes, but first we will look into the last seven sayings of Jesus – the words He spoke while on the cross, those that are recorded in the Word of God. Then after our discussion from the study questions, we will look into what happened after Jesus' body was placed in the sepulcher (the study questions end there).

Some of the concepts we will cover are mysteries that we cannot completely comprehend with our human perspective. But we can receive, believe, and be blessed by these truths.

The Last Seven Saying of Jesus Christ on the Cross

[Jesus said,] *the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.* – John 6:63

1. Luke 23:34 *Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*

This fulfilled Isaiah 53:12 *Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

Jesus forgave:

All the house of Israel: Acts 2:36 *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

All mankind: Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

**For us:**

Receive His forgiveness: Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

And as believers: 1 John 1:8-9

Forgive others: Matthew 5:44 *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.*

Seven times seventy: Matthew 18:21-22

2. John 19:26 *When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, **Woman, behold thy son!** 27 Then saith he to the disciple, **Behold thy mother!** And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.*

Mary stood by the cross; she must have remembered ...*a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also...* (Luke 2:34-35)

Although Jesus was suffering greatly, He took care of His human mother.

**For us:** Jesus here gave a strong example for us to care for those around us.

3. Luke 23:43 *And Jesus said unto him, **Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.***

Both thieves reviled Christ (Mat. 27:40-44), but later one thief was mocking Jesus, and the other had a change of heart. Luke 23:40 *But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou*

*fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.*

Jesus saved him, even while in His agony: Hebrews 7:25 *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

**For us:** seek His mercy; and extend mercy to others.

4. Matthew 27:46 *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?** that is to say, **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?***

This is the beginning of Psalm 22, a messianic psalm.

A mystery: Jesus felt alone, but was not; this was a cry of distress, not distrust. (Perhaps the Father was simply silent for this brief time?)

Psalm 37:25 *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.* – although Jesus was the sacrifice for sin, He never stopped being righteous.

And in Psalm 22:24 we see that in His faithfulness, the Father met the Son's needs: *For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.*

In quoting Psalm 22:1, Jesus was referring to a messianic psalm about His time on the cross. Earlier that day the religious leaders had mockingly referred to Psalm 22; here Jesus was in effect claiming to fulfill it.

**For us:** We can know that our heavenly Father is faithful to us when we call on Him: Lamentations 3:22 *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

5. John 19:28 *After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, **I thirst.***

All had been accomplished and Jesus knew it. He had been offered vinegar before (Mat. 27:34) – it probably had a type of pain killer; He refused it. Now He took the vinegar; this fulfilled a prophecy (Ps. 69:21).

**For us:** Jesus suffered physically and so understands our hurts. (Heb. 2:17-18)

Also, we are to hunger and thirst after righteousness. (Mat. 5:6)

6. John 19:30 *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** \* and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

\* Note that Jesus' last saying (number 7) was right before He *gave up the ghost*.

What did Jesus finish?

- At least 25 messianic prophecies were fulfilled that day.

- The one perfect atoning sacrifice for the sins of all mankind: Revelation 13: 8 ... *the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

1 John 2:2 ... *And he [Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

- Satan's fate was sealed: Hebrews 2:14 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he [Jesus] also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.*

**For us:** What has God give you to finish?

7. Luke 23:46 *And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit:** and having said thus, \* he gave up the ghost.*

\* Note that Jesus said, *It is finished*; then He said, *Father into thy hands I commend my spirit*; and then He *gave up the ghost*.

Jesus had freely given Himself into the hands of the executioners; now He committed Himself to His Father.

God was faithful to Him – The Father kept Jesus safe for 3 days and nights and then raised Him from the dead.

**For us:** Let us put ourselves in God's hands – every day, and for eternity.

Conclusion: John 6:63 ... *the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

These seven sayings are recorded as perfect and complete – to bring life to us. May we honor our Lord as we ponder them. The essence of those words:

Forgiveness

Care for His mother

His giving salvation even at this time

His feeling alone as His life neared its earthly end

Submission to His final moments

His knowledge that His work on earth was complete

Surrendering to the Father as He died

Again, many things have been said and written about Jesus' last day on earth. But what matters is what the Word of God says. May this brief look at Jesus' last words bring you new revelation, hope and closeness to our Lord.

*But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

*– Matthew 4:4*

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Discussion of Some Study Questions

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## After Jesus' Burial

Jesus' body was in the tomb, but it did not *see corruption* (begin to decay). Acts 2:26 *Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

Where did Jesus soul/spirit go? He went to the place that was the abode of the righteous dead until the time of His resurrection. It was a place of comfort in a separate compartment inside of hell, the abode of the dead.

It is described in several ways:

The heart of the earth: Matthew 12:40 *For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

Abraham's bosom: Luke 16:22 *And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

Paradise: (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 12:4) Revelation 2:7 *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

Note on the word "paradise" as used in the Bible: From the three times the word is in the Bible, we see that it is where God's people are after they leave this earth. Before Jesus' resurrection it was a separate place of comfort in hell; when Jesus was resurrected He took paradise and the righteous people in it to heaven (Eph. 4:7-10); and eventually it will be in the new heaven and earth (Rev.2:7).

Note on the word "hell" as used in the Bible: context is important to understand its meaning:

The general word for the abode of the dead.

Also, a more specific meaning of the place where the unrighteous dead go for punishment; they stay there awaiting final judgment which will be at the Great White Throne of Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

There is more than one Word for hell in the Greek, and there is not total consistency of which is which.

The word "hades" was not used until recent times in English Bibles when referring to Bible passages, and it has its roots in Greek mythology.

## Jesus' resurrection and following events:

Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day:

By God: Acts 2:24 *Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.*

By the Father: Galatians 1:1 *Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)*

By the Holy Spirit: 1 Peter 3:18 *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*

By the Son: John 2:19 *Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.* (and John 10:17-18)

Now let's finish today's lesson by hearing the account  
of the resurrection and surrounding events using  
*An Analytical Red Letter Harmony of the Four Gospels*, by Floyd Nolen Jones.