

Famous Last Words

Luke 23:32-43

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

I. God’s forgiveness is stunning.

Luke 23:32-34

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

A. Give back story on the crucifixion.

1. What did Jesus experience?

B. The offer of forgiveness.

The necessity of forgiveness

- **Jesus requires me to forgive.**

Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

C. Unpack text

The priority of forgiveness

- **Jesus commands me make forgiveness a priority.**

Matthew 5:23-24

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

The urgency of forgiveness

- **Jesus helps me to forgive quickly.**

Ephesians 4:22-24, 26-27

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.

He is a merciful God, gracious and forgiving God.

II. I need the Holy Spirit’s conviction in my life.

We should pray for the conviction of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

He is the only acceptable sacrifice for sin.

Luke 23:35-39

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

A. Unpack Text

1. Horrific sight to behold.
2. Rulers
 - a. Sneered at him
 - b. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”
3. Soldiers
 - a. The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”
 - b. THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS



4. Thief

- a. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

B. The very one who could help them was

- a. Scorned.
- b. Rejected
- c. Made fun of
- d. Mocked

C. What we need is God conviction.

John 16:8

⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

“What gives us conviction of sin is not the number of sins we have committed; it is the sight of the holiness of God.” Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“When Holy God draws near in true revival, people come under terrible conviction of sin. The outstanding feature of spiritual awakening has been the profound consciousness of the Presence and holiness of God” – Henry Blackaby

“Conviction of sin is God’s way of inviting you to restore fellowship with Him.”

“Conviction is not repentance; conviction leads to repentance. But you can be convicted without repentance.” Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“When Holy God draws near in true revival, people come under terrible conviction of sin. The outstanding feature of spiritual awakening has been the profound consciousness of the Presence and holiness of God” – Henry Blackaby

III. The Holy Spirit’s conviction leads me to repentance.

Luke 23:40-42

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

- A. We need help here and if we will let him the thief of the cross next to Jesus can help us.

How can the thief help us?

- B. I want to point out the progression.
 1. Don’t you fear God?
 2. We are punished justly, we are getting what our deeds deserve.
 3. This man has done nothing wrong.
 4. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

IV. Jesus is my savior.

Luke 23:43

Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

- A. Unpack
 - 1. Look at that
 - 2. What a miracle.