

The Seven Last Words

Promise: to be with our Lord Jesus in Paradise...

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg
(Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 4/10/20)

Lead In – Seven final words have been preserved for us...

I. Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. (Lk 23:34)

Jesus was arrested as a criminal, he was tried illegally, convicted under false testimony, beaten, scourged, and given a torturous execution. And what is the prayer on his lips?

II. Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise. (Lk 23:43)

What a difference between the two criminals. Both were guilty, but only one admitted it. And the one who admitted it turns to Jesus and essentially pleads for mercy.

III. Woman, behold, your son! ... Behold your mother! (Jn 19:26, 27)

Relationships matter. Jesus honors his mother and entrusts her to the care of one of his disciples. Our silver and gold we cannot take with us on that final journey, but children of God will be reunited in the Kingdom.

IV. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Mt 27:46)

This is called “The Cry of Dereliction”. Jesus’ deepest anguish was not the physical suffering, although that was considerable. It was bearing our sin and in some sense experiencing the alienating quality of sin.

V. I thirst (Jn. 19:28)

The Son of God truly assumed our humanity in the birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary. He became like us in every way, except for our sin. And like us he is able to identify with our weakness and to represent us. Therefore he grew tired, hungry, and thirsty...

VI. It is finished (Jn 19:30)

The strange and unexpected work is on track! The battle has been engaged. The mission is accomplished! Victory is certain.

VII. Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit! (Lk 23:46)

The ultimate in what it means to have faith, “to let go and let God.” Who or what do we commend ourselves to? Our bodies and souls?

Parting Shot – The remainder of the service is your chance to meditate on...

Luther’s last words were: “We are beggars. This is true.” – Death on February 18, 1546

Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 10:13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother.” (Fourth Commandment)

Matthew 12:50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Psalms 22:1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

John 12:32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:2-3 In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

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