

7 Last Words

7. “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

Luke 23:44 through Luke 23:46 (NKJV)

⁴⁴Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. ⁴⁵Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.

⁴⁶And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “Father, *‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’*” Having said this, He breathed His last.

Introduction:

More than 2000 years ago, Jesus of Nazareth knew his hour was coming. Many times in his discussions with his disciples, he told them his death was coming. He told them how he would die. He told them how long he would be dead. He told them how they were going to react to his death. And he told them he would rise again.

From the 6th hour to the 9th hour, he slowly breathed out his earthly life. But during that time, when words are few and precious, the Bible records seven things Jesus said from the cross:

1. Father forgive them, for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34).
2. Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43).
3. Eli Eli lama sabachthani? ("My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?", Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34).
4. Woman, behold your son: behold your mother (John 19:26-27).
5. I thirst (John 19:28).
6. It is finished (John 19:30).
7. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit (Luke 23:46).

We believe these sayings are significant. We also believe it is our duty to make the cross of Christ relevant for this generation.

It is Resurrection Sunday. For the last 6 weeks we have been examining the seven last words or sayings of Christ.

We began with “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” Next, we examined “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” Thirdly, Reverend Jackson shared from the saying “Eli Eli lama sabachthani? (“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”). Forth, we continued with “Woman, behold your son: behold your mother.” Two weeks ago, we discussed “I thirst.” Last week we approached thee close of this series with “It is finished.” Today we will conclude with Luke 23:46 “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”

Introduction:

The Prayer:

Jesus of Nazareth is dying. Luke records that just before Jesus breathes his last breath, he makes one last prayer to God. He says “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit”. When we look back at the seven things Jesus said from the cross it’s significant that he begins and ends with prayer.

His first statement was a prayer for the people. He said “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do”. They did not know the truth and they did not know God’s plan. Here in the most chaotic and discouraging moment in the life of Jesus he reveals his strength to us. He made it in life through prayer.

John 14:8 through John 14:11 (NKJV)

⁸Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

Prayer brought him out. Prayer brought him through. Prayer kept him pure. Prayer and communication with the Father was the source of every word and action he performed on this earth. Prayer was the source of his perfect life. To be holy, different, set apart, righteous, we must engage in a life changing relationship with God. We must hear the voice of God guiding us and instructing us just as he did for Jesus.

God still speaks to his people. He speaks to us through his word. He speaks to us through life’s circumstances. He speaks to us through other believers. He speaks to us through prayer.

This prayer is a direct quote of Psalm 31:5. This Psalm speaks of the condition of a man who is under extreme stress. He has many challenges around him and may even feel like he’s in despair. But he puts his trust in the Lord. After all of the shame and the world seemingly turning against him.

The Promise:

Mark 8:31 (NKJV)

³¹And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be

rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Jesus knew he would rise again. He told his disciples on more than one occasion that he would die and be raised again in three days. The circumstances didn't point to it, but Jesus would rise again. So he says "Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit".

Jesus is putting his spirit into the hands of God. He is putting his trust in God. He is intrusting the Father with the care of his spirit in death as well as he did in his life. This is not a permanent deposit. This is safe keeping until he rises again.

We will all spend eternity somewhere. There is everlasting life and everlasting punishment. Which will we choose? Where will we deposit our souls? Will we commit our spirits to the cares of this world? Will we chase after the things that fade away?

Jesus died so we don't have to die. We don't have to live in our dead circumstances. We must allow God to resurrect the dead places in our lives. There is power in the cross. There is power in the resurrection.

When the world comes against you, commit your spirit. When you are in despair, commit your spirit. When your trials suffocate you, commit your spirit. Have confidence in God because you know he will raise you up again. How do you know? Because Jesus had power to resurrect before he went to the cross.

He raised the son of a widow in Luke 7. He raised Jairus' daughter in Matthew 9. He raised Lazarus in John 11. Martha told him if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Jesus told her your brother will live again. She said I know he will in the resurrection at the last day.

John 11:25 (NKJV)

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. I'm only going to stay here a little while. Just hold it for me while I preach to the captives in the land of the dead. Hold it for me while I lead those souls to you in heaven. Just hold it for me while I take the keys of hell and death. Hold it for me until I have purchased salvation for all who believe. Just hold it for me until Sunday morning. Hold it for me until I get up.

Hold it for me until I have all power in heaven and earth in my hands.