

The Last Words of Jesus

Week 2

What we do with Jesus' [WORDS](#) defines our past, present & future.

1 Peter 3:18

Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God.

Luke 23:34b-39

...And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

³⁵ The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." ³⁶ The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. ³⁷ They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ A sign was fastened above him with these words:

"This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself – and us, too, while you're at it!"

2 Corinthians 8:9

You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

Jesus chose not to save [HIMSELF](#) so he could save [US](#).

Luke 23:40-42

But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? ⁴¹ We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

Isaiah 53:12b

*He was counted among
the rebels. He bore the
sins of many and
interceded for rebels.*

**Proximity to Jesus always
creates space to
CHANGE.**

Luke 23:43

And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**Jesus offers certainty in every
UNCERTAINTY.**

Hebrews 4:16 [NIV]

*Let us then approach
God's throne of grace
with confidence, so that
we may receive mercy
and find grace to help us
in our time of need.*

So What?

How will you APPROACH Him today?

- 1) It's never too late, until it IS.
- 2) It's not unfair because it's not EARNED.



Notes:

*"We don't need to make faith easier, because it's not.
We need to make it simpler, because it is."
- Bob Goff*



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Now What? [For Further Reflection]:

- :: *Take a moment to share something God is teaching or re-teaching you through the “Last Words of Jesus” series?*
 - :: *Identify one way you sought to reflect the words of Jesus in your life this past week.*
 - :: *Pastor Shawn said, “What we do with Jesus’ words defines our past, present & future.” Discuss the implications of that reality.*
 - :: *How are Jesus words defining your past, present or future?*
 - :: *Identify any areas of your life not yet being defined by him.*
 - :: *Re-read Luke 23:34-43.*
 - :: *What are some of your initial observations from this passage?*
 - :: *Discuss the differences/similarities between the 2 criminals.*
 - :: *Who do you most identify with in this narrative? Why?*
 - :: *Reread Hebrews 4:16.*
 - :: *Take a moment to compare and contrast mercy & grace in light of the fact that mercy is God withholding & grace is God outpouring.*
 - :: *How does God’s grace and mercy give us hope in the face of realities & uncertainties in life?*
 - :: *How does the ability to approach God with confidence shape how we pray? What we ask? How we ask?*
 - :: *Identify 1 thing you need to do this week to approach Jesus more fully.*
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How to start a relationship with Jesus:

- 1) Admit that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Say YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead because you believe Today, I choose to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. Guide my life and help me to do Your will. In Your name, amen.

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the
New Living Translation [NLT].

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