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| **7 Sayings From The Cross** | **Gary Huckaby** | http://www.biblemaster.com/images/topright.gif |

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| Luke  23: 34 - 34 |
| Seven Sayings From The Cross  By-Evangelist Gary Huckaby  "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do, and they parted his raiment, and cast lots." Luke 23:34.  The 7 Sayings From The Cross  (This series is from seven sermons by our founder; preached at Lakeside Baptist Church in 1980, while he was Pastor.)  (1)  Christ spoke seven times from the cross, three times He spoke before the darkness;  Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them."  Luke 23:43, "Today thou shalt be with me in paradise."  John 19:26,27, "Woman! Behold thy son."  Once He spoke while in the darkness;  Matthew 27:46, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"  Then three more times after the darkness;  John 19:28, "I Thirst."  John 19:30, "It is finished."  Luke 23:46, "Father, into thy hands."  His First Words Were A Prayer  Jesus acted unlike all others who were crucified; others cursed and cried, and begged, and spit at the soldiers and people there.  When Jesus opened His public ministry He began with Prayer. Luke 3:21, says,  " Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized; and praying, the heaven was opened."  How significant!  How instructive!  An example for us!  Now He is nailed to the cross. Now He can’t reach out His hands to others, Now He can’t walk on errands of mercy; But now He exercises His greatest ministry, the ministry of intercession. Here Jesus is praying for His enemies and for all people. The answer came 53 days later. In Acts 3:17; 3000 were saved, again in Acts 4:4, 5000 were saved. This prayer is also for us today. (see John 17:20, His high Priestly Prayer.)  This prayer from the cross was a continual prayer. The verb, "said" is an imperative verb, which means that He kept saying it until His second words.  He kept saying it when; The nails were driven into His hands. Until, the nails were driven in His feet. Even when they dropped the cross into the hole. He kept saying it, when they cursed at Him. He kept saying it when they parted His garments.  A Test For Our Prayers  1- Is it for me?  2- Can God have the glory when answered?  3- What does it profit?  4- Can I do without it?  5- Is it right?  6- Would Jesus pray for it?  7- Do I really believe I will receive an answer?  Matthew 7:7-11; 21:22; John 14:13-14; 15:16; James 4:3.  Isaiah shows this prayer from the cross in Isaiah 53:12. This prayer is not a cancellation from sin, for without faith, there is never a pardon. It was a prayer of "Justification" for ignorance.  An example of this is Pilate. Pilate knew Christ had done no wrong. The Jews too, for they delivered Him to Pilate because of envy. Mark 15:10. Jesus is saying, Charge this sin to my account, I will pay for it all! It is a prayer for God to hold back His judgment for now. Jesus knew He could have been delivered from the cross had He wanted to. Matthew 26:53.  It is a prayer for sinners. It is a prayer for us.  Do you know Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour? If not bow to Him and confess to Him that you believe His Word, and that He died, and rose again from the dead. Invite Him into your heart and life right now.  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  "And Jesus said unto him, Verily, I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43.  The 7 Sayings From The Cross  (part 2)  The Words of Salvation  The events between the first words of Jesus and His second words are found in Luke 23:39-43.  Christ Between Two Thieves  There were no accidents this "day of days." It was no accident that Christ was placed between two thieves. Matthew 27:38. Pilate had ordered it so,  John 19:14-22. This position indicated that the crucifiers considered Him the worst of the three.  In the second words many false teachings are refuted.  1- Sacramentalism: The thief was saved without baptism, ceremony, or good works.  2- Purgatory: This sinner was transformed instantly from a sinner to a saint, and made fit for paradise.  3- Universalism: Only one thief was saved not all were. Only those who receive Him. John 1:12.  4- Soul Sleep: The clear implication that the thief would be in conscious fellowship while in paradise.  The Prophecy  Isaiah 53:12, "he was numbered with transgressors."  Mark 15:28, "The scripture was fulfilled."  Salvation By Grace  Christ turns none away who come to Him.   John 3:16, "Whosoever believeth."  John 6:34-37, " I will in no wise cast out."  John 11:26, "Whosoever."  Anyone can be saved if they will only come to Him. Grace is the way we are saved, not by works. Ephesians 2:8-9. The thief was helpless in saving himself. John 1:12, Romans 5:6. Like the woman in Mark 5:26, after she had spent all, she came to Christ.  Paradise  Revelation 2:5, gives a reference to eternity with God. Genesis 2:7-10, tells of the paradise given to Adam and Eve that was then paradise. Genesis 3:22-24, shows the pair driven from that paradise because of their disobedience to God’s direct command. 2 Corinthians 12:4, Paul speaks of one caught up into paradise. Luke 16:22, Lazarus was in Abraham’s bosom, which was paradise. Matthew 8:11, speaks of sitting with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven, (paradise). The old Testament saints went to paradise at death. Just as did the thief which died beside Christ on the cross.  Are you a child of God today? Do you know you are going to heaven when you die? If you do not, please receive Jesus Christ into your heart and life today. Do it now!  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*  "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home." John 19:26-27.  The 7 Sayings From The Cross  (part 3)  Words Of Affection  There was a small group of believers at the foot of the cross, Verse 25, says, Mary, the mother; Mary’s sister, Mary, Clopas wife; Mary Magdelene, and the disciple whom Jesus loved. That disciple was the writer of this gospel.  His Mother  Luke 2:35, "Simeon a man who was a just man and devout, one whom the Holy Spirit was upon, told Mary that sorrow was to come. Look at the verse. "(yea a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."  Think of Mary’s sorrow, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. No room for the child to be born in, only a stable. Her anguish in Herod’s plan to kill the infant. Her trouble, when the family was faced to flee into Egypt, to live among another Nation of people. Her piercing of soul; Her Son now dispised and rejected. Her grief, when she saw Him hated, persecuted, and now crucified.  Jesus was the man of sorrows, and as Isaiah says, aquatinted with grief. Mary was the woman of sorrow. She was the first to plant a kiss upon the babe; the first to guide the hands and feet. The disciples deserted Him, His friends forsook Him, but His Mother stayed.  Exodus 20:12, The fifth commandment says, Honor thy mother and father.  Ephesians 6:1-3, Matthew 15:4, 19:19, Mark 7:10.  Jesus words to her from the cross were; "Woman" Jesus never called her mother, for she was not to receive honor above Christ. Two times He called her "mother." John 2:3, at a wedding, and John 19:26, here at the cross.  The Disciple  John the beloved disciple, returned, but the others did not. They were offended, Matthew 26:31. The high priest asked of the disciples, John 18:19, but only John came to the cross.  Behold Thy Mother  He is telling John to take care of his mother from this time on, and she lived with John for the rest of her natural life history tells us. Jesus is still the central figure here, not Mary, not John. Here Christ severs Himself from His mother’s love. He forsook the best that earth had to offer, He renounced every tie!  DO you know Him as your Lord and Saviour today? If not, please receive Him now!  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, la ma sabach tha ni? That is to say, my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46.  The 7 Sayings From The Cross  (part 4)  The Word Of Anguish  Since the first, second, and the third sayings, a lot has changed. Before it was daylight, now darkness, an earthquake came, the veil of the temple was torn in half. Some have suggested that Jesus was fulfilling Psalms 22:1, Jesus was not dying a martyr’s death, for He gave His life freely, and He has the power to take it again.  The story is told of Martin Luther, that while meditating on our text verse; "God forsaken of God, who can understand it?" No man can truly fathom the Lord Jesus being forsaken of the Father, but He was!  Christ’s Sacrifice  Jesus plunged Himself into the heart of outer darkness, and that darkness kept any from seeing the suffering which could never be described. Jesus was as a scapegoat driven into the wilderness (see Hebrews 13:10-14, and Leviticus 4) Jesus was not a mangled sheep, but a mangled shepherd.   Philippians 2:5-8 , tells us that Jesus was the God man, God in a human body.  2 Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Jesus was our representative for all sin. He humbled Himself to become our substitute.  Hells Torment  In Christ sufferings we have a brief glimpse of Hells torment. is pain, unlike any other, His shriek of loneliness, forsaken of God; His agonizing question from the cross. Why, the question? Because it is the enigma of a hopeless situation, one that could never be solved by man alone. His mental torment was greater that His physical torment too.  Forsaken  1- By his earthly family.  2- By His home town, Nazareth, as they forsook Him.  3- The nation of Israel rejected Him.  4- The disciples forsook Him.   And now in this darkness, God forsakes His Son.  The Wrath Of God  This fourth saying shows God’s wrath.  Judges 2:14, "hot anger."  Duet. 9:19, "hot displeasure."  Heb. 10:27, "fiery indignation."  Hebrews 10:31, says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of an angry God." He did this because He will one day be the judge of the world. John 5:22, Acts 17:31.  He died for everyone!  Do you know Him as your Lord and Saviour today? If you died today, do you know that you would go to heaven? If not, confess him now.  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst." John 19:28.  From The Series  The 7 Sayings From The Cross  (part 5)  I Thirst  The Fifth Saying:  It is light again, Satan has tried to blot out the Son of righteousness, but failed.   Of the seven sayings, six are in pairs.  1- Father forgive them  2- Today, shalt thou be with me in paradise.  3- Woman, behold thy son.  4- My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?  5- I Thirst  6- It is finished.  7- Father into thy hands I commend my spirit.  All of Christ other words asked for no personal favor, but now He says, "I". The need is purely physical. Notice what was given Him to drink. John 19:28-29.   Vinegar; A preservative, this fulfilled Psalms 69:21.  One reason for the cry was to gain strength for the voluntary committal of Himself to physical death. The cry, "I Thirst" is not a request, it is a condition, Like the man in hell from Luke 16.  "The Exhausted Victor  Jesus was announcing Himself as the victor. Exhausted from conflict, which is clear from the words; "after this," and "all things."  Hebrews 2:14-15, says, "Foreasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he 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; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bandage."  The story is told of Robert Lewis Stevenson traveling on a ship which was using a steam engine that he had invented. A storm came up and the weather was very rough. One of the passengers ask Stevenson; are you afraid, to which he replied; "No, I am not afraid; I have seen the face of the pilot, and he smiled, all is well."  The Identified Saviour  Psalms 69:21, says, "They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."  Psalms 1101, "The LORD said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."  Jesus not only suffered our hell, but also for our physical state or condition. Jesus was perfect man, and perfect God.  Do you know Him as your Lord and Saviour today? Confess Him and become a child of the King.  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished; and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." John 19:30.  From The Series  The 7 Sayings From The Cross  (part 6)  The Word Of Victory  It Is Finished:  Here we have not just a referral to salvation’s plan, though this is the main purpose, we have now turned from the victim to victor. From the original Greek, it is one word, "FINISHED." This is not a helpless cry of the despair of a martyr, it is not the last gasp of a worn out life either, It is the declaration that all for which He came from heaven to earth to do, was now done. All that was needed to reveal the full character of God was accomplished, all the law required before sinners could be saved, had been performed. What Was Finished?  The Prophecies:  One by one each prophecy concerning Him and His death and suffering were fulfilled to the very letter.  1- Gen. 3:15, Born of woman’s seed. Gal. 4:4  2- Isa.7:14, Mother a virgin, Mt.1:18  3- Gen.22:18, seed of Abraham, Mt.1:1.  4- 2 Sam.7:12-13, the lineage of David, Rom.1:3  5- Isa.49:1, named before birth, Lk.1:30,31.  6- Micah 5:2, Born in Bethlehem, Lk.2:14-15.  7- Jer.31:15, Birth brought sorrow, Mt.2:14-15.  8- Hosea 11:1, flight into Egypt, Mt.2:14-15  10- Mal.3:1, one preparing His way, Jn.1:15  11- Isa.35:5-6, His healing,   12- Psalms 78:2, His parables.  13- Psalms 107:29, stilling the tempest.  14- Zech. 9:9, Triumphal entry to Jerusalem.  15- Isa. 53:3, His person despised.  16- Isa. 8:14, rejected of the Jews.  17- Psalms 69:4, hated without a cause.  These are just a few references and they do not include His sufferings, trial, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.  The completeness of His suffering;  1- Physical; The beating, scourging, slaps, nails in hands and feet, and the crown of thorns.   2- Mental; rejected, and forsaken by friends.   3- spiritual, forsaken by God, our hell was upon Him.  The Goal Of Incarnation Reached.  There is a special work to each of the Divine persons of the Trinity.  1- The father, Concern with the governments of the world. "He ruleth over all the works of His hands."  2- The Son, Concerned in the work of redemption. "He was the one who died for sinners."  3- The Spirit, Concerned with the scriptures. 2 Timothy 3:16.  The mission of Christ was accomplished. God’s plan had been fully carried out. Acts 2:23-28.  The accomplishment of the atonement is fulfilled;   Luke 19:10, He came to seek and save that which was lost.  1 Timothy 1:15, He came into the world to save sinners.  Galatians.4:4, to take away our sins.  It is Finished, is "teleo" from the Greek, which means, made an end of, paid, accomplished. It meant the destruction of Satan’s power. Hebrews 2:14 and Colossians 1:13.  Are you a Christian today? Do you know Jesus Christ as your lord and Saviour? If not receive Him into your heart and life now.  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father into thy hands I commend my spirit; and having said this, he gave up the ghost." Luke 23:46.  From The Series  The 7 Sayings From The Cross  (part 7)  The Words of Contentment:  The words here set forth His last act before He dismissed His spirit.  His Communion With The Father  This last saying is a prayer. He began these seven sayings with a prayer, now He ends with a prayer.  Jesus often used the title, Father. In the sermon on the mount, He used it 17 times. In His first discourse it was used 45 times. John 14-16. In His priestly prayer Jesus used, Father, 6 times. John 17. Father is the title we should begin our prayers with. Father shows a family relationship.  His Yieldedness to The Father  At age 12, He said, "I must be about my father’s business," Luke 2:49.   In Matthew 11:25-30, "All things delivered." In prayer. Mark 1:35. Now in this last act He yields up His spirit.  Christ Uniqueness As Saviour  He died as no other has. Listen to His claim from John 10:17-18, " Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have the power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my father." In Matthew 25:50, "He yielded up His spirit." From the Greek, it says, "He dismissed His spirit."  Mark 15:37, from the Greek says, "He breathed out His spirit."  John 19:30, "He bowed His head and gave up the spirit."  He had now reached the end. The perfect Master of Himself unconquered by death. He died by an act of His own volition. Here we see eternal security, John 6:29, We are kept by His power, 1 Peter 1:5. He is now ready for paradise, and in three days, He would raise His body from the grave.  There was one other sound from the cross that day. It was unintelligible in speech. It was a scream! Luke 23:46, says, "He cried with a loud voice." It was a scream, because He had taken our place in death.  Do you know Christ as your Lord and Saviour today? Have you been "Born Again?" If not confess Christ now. He is waiting for you to call upon Him.  Huckaby’s Evangelism P.O.Box 1011  Pine Mountain, Georgia 31822  glhuck@earthlink.net glhuckaby@yahoo.com glhuckaby@excite.com |