

Good Friday 2010
Seven Last Words from the Cross.

The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the cross tell us all we need to know. After all, these are the words of Jesus and his word is powerful and true.

The first word is: **“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”** (Lk. 23:34). This word tells us the purpose of his prayer to God. His prayer for us is that God would forgive us because we do not know the Father’s will. The forgiveness of our sins is accomplished on the cross by the death of Jesus. **“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”**

The second word: **“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise”**. (Lk. 23:43). This word tells us the gift won on the cross and given to us is paradise with God! This word gives us hope even in the midst of the greatest troubles we face in life. This word of Jesus gives us courage for today and hope for tomorrow. It gives us a vision of heaven as we struggle in life. **“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise”**.

The third word: **“Woman, behold your son, behold your mother.”** (John 19:26-27). In this word Jesus tells us that before paradise, we are to care for one another. To care for one another in this life is the purpose of the Christian community. We are family here and God wants us to love and care for one another. **“Woman, behold your son, behold your mother.”**

The fourth word: **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** (Matt. 27:46). This word tells us the extreme lengths to which Jesus had to go to accomplish forgiveness, and to give us eternal life. When we feel discouraged, forsaken, abandoned we know that Jesus understands and because we live after the resurrection we know that Jesus will never forsake us. He took our alienation from God upon himself that we might be reconciled to God. **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

The fifth word: **“I thirst.”** (Jn. 19:28). This word tells us that Jesus is fully human, suffering all for us. When you suffer – and all of us will at some point in life – know that Jesus is with you and knows your needs. Jesus said, **“I thirst.”**

The sixth word: **“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”** (Luke 23:46). This word tells us that Jesus, the fully divine son of God, gave up

his life for us. In perfect faith Jesus committed himself to God even as he suffered a vicious and painful death. His trust in God was complete.

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

The seventh word: **“It is finished.”** (John 19:30). This word tells us that the task is done. All that we need, the forgiveness of sins, life and care in the family of God, strength for living, Christ’s presence in our suffering, eternity in paradise, have all been accomplished and given to us in Jesus. We need do or add nothing. **“It is finished.”** Thanks be to God.