

7

Seven Sayings from the Cross

So many sermons have been preached on the seven sayings of Christ from the Cross. Here's another outline —

1. **Father, Forgive them;**

for they know not what they do! (Lk 23:34)

The Cross symbolizes reconciliation:

God ↔ Man / Man ↔ Man

No reconciliation without **forgiveness**.

The first lesson after the Lord's Prayer —

Mt 6:14,15 ... *forgive* ...

The first thing to be done before offering —

Mt 5:23,24 ... *first be reconciled* ...

Forgive your brother/sister.

Forgive your husband/wife.

Forgive your relatives/neighbours.

Forgive your friends/coworkers.

How to love the unlovable —

- Realize how God loved you, an unlovable.
- Realize how much God loves the other person.
- Our life is short — What do we benefit by carrying grudge?

2. **Assuredly I say to you:**

Today you will be with Me in Paradise! (Lk 23:43)

Can I know I am saved? YES!

Acts 2:47 ... The saved were *added to the Church*.

Acts 16:30,34 ... The Jailer got saved and rejoiced.

Lk 19:9,10 ... Zacchaeus ... *Today salvation* ...

Salvation in 3 tenses —

- a) Past ... Deliverance from the *Penalty* of Sin
- b) Present ... Deliverance from the *Power* of Sin
- c) Future ... Deliverance from the *Presence* of Sin

How to be saved —

Realize you are a sinner.

Repent to God the Father.

Receive Christ by faith as your Saviour and Lord.

Rejoice you are a child of God now.

Do not postpone! Do not quote the dying thief!

Today is the Day of Salvation! (2 Cor 6:2)

He who is often reprov'd ... (Prov 29:1)

3. **Woman, Behold your son ...**

Behold your mother! (Jn 19:26,27)

Here's a message to all children!

The sign of the last days —

Mal 4:5,6 ... *fathers ... children* ...

2 Tim 3:1,2 ... *disobedient to parents* ...

- Obey your parents though they may not understand all you say —
Lk 2:48-51 ... Jesus was subject to His parents.
- Help your parents every way —
Mk 6:3 ... A family of a minimum of 7 children —
Jesus helped in the carpentry shop.
- Support them when they are old —
eg) 1 Tim 5:16
Remember, one day you will become like them!

- The only commandment with promise —
Honour your father and mother (Eph 6:1-3)
- The first of the second set of 10 Commandments —
Honour your father and mother (Ex 20:12)

4. My God, My God, Why have You forsaken Me? (Mt 27:46)

- The central cry of the Cross!
- This was when the “sin” of the whole world
came on Him.

He became sin for us (2 Cor 5:21)
The Father God hid His face from Jesus for a moment.

This is called the “Discipline of Darkness” —
Isa 50:10 ... obeys ... darkness ... trust ...

Example from the Tabernacle —

Outer Court : Sunlight
Inner Court : Candlelight
Innermost Court : No light

This is where we are to
“walk by faith and not by sight” or feelings (2 Cor 5:7)

Jesus asks this question to His Father calling Him,
“My God” — then acknowledging His Sovereignty.

It was a cry of agony, not anger!

Here we see the **human** side of the Divine Son of God —

Because He went thro’ all these moments of agony
and loneliness, He understands our struggles perfectly
and helps us appropriately (Heb 2:17,18; 4:14-16).

Do you **feel** forsaken? But not really!

“I’ll never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb 13:5b)

God hides Himself but never absents Himself!

5. I thirst! (Jn 19:28)

God allows suffering in our lives to teach us many lessons —

- One lesson: “We must be interdependent,
not independent.”
Human ego & pride refuse to request help from others!
God breaks it in suffering.
The Church is a Body.
No member can function alone independently.

- Another lesson:
Jesus took the sinner’s place on the Cross.
His thirst represents the thirst of every man
and woman —

Money cannot quench that thirst —
eg) sea water

Pleasures cannot quench that thirst —
eg) Solomon (Eccl 2:1-11,17)

The **Gospel** of Christ alone can satisfy the vacuum
in the heart of man (The last invitation — Rev 22:17)

Therefore, let’s evangelize.

What we do to these hungry, thirsty people, we do to Christ:
“I was thirsty and you gave me to drink.”

6. It is finished! (Jn 19:30)

- This is a shout of victory!
- All the demands of a holy God for the Salvation of man
were fully met.
- Salvation is by the Cross plus or minus nothing.

We cannot add anything to it.
We cannot earn it also. It’s a gift (Eph 2:8,9).
None can boast, “I did this or that.”

Difference between Christianity and all religions —
“Done!” vs. “Do!”

Christianity: Salvation to Sanctification
Other religions: Sanctification to Salvation

Religious works do not save us —

Church membership does not save us.
Baptism/Confirmation does not save us.
Communion does not save us.
Offerings, etc. do not save us.

Faith on the finished work of Christ alone saves us!
Will you accept this **gift** today?

7. Father, Into Your hands I commend My spirit!

(Lk 23:46)

A picture of **full** surrender and
total commitment.

First Saying: ... *“Father ...*
Fourth (middle) Saying: ... *“My God ...*
Seventh Saying: ... *“Father ...*

A life of God-centredness ... Alpha & Omega
A life of God-dependence.

Safety and Security have become unknown these days.

But, see these passages —

“You are in My hands ... no man can pluck you”
“I have counted your very hair ...”
“I’ve drawn you on the palms of My hands ...”
“Your life is hid with Christ in God”
“I know whom I’ve believed...What I committed to Him.”

“Safe in the arms of Jesus!” — Not just for the tombstones!

He knows and keeps us

“from before the **womb** to beyond the **tomb**”