

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

# Last Words

Matthew 27:46; Luke 23:34, 43, 46; John 19:26-30

♩ = 56

Cm Cm G7/B Eb G A♭ A♭add9 A♭ B♭/A♭ E♭ E♭M7/G E♭ Gm7/D Cm Cm/B♭

1. O dy - ing Christ, I hear You speak. Your bod - y hangs, so pale and  
 2. Tor - ment - ed Christ, I hear You pray The words that on - ly love can  
 3. For - sak - en Christ, I hear You cry. You scream Your pain, but no re -

A♭ Eb/B♭ G/B G7/B Cm Cm/G A♭6 A♭ Cm/G Cm7/G

weak, Yet love is strong And still a - ware. Your heart is  
 say: "Fa - ther, for - give!" What self - less prayer! Your thoughts are  
 ply. A - ban - doned here, A - lone in death, You trust Your

Fm7 Cm/G A♭6 Fm7 G sus G sus/D G 1, 2 Cm 3 C

plan - ning for an - oth - er's care.  
 mer - cy as You suf - fer there!  
 Fa - ther with Your fi - nal breath.

WORDS: Ken Bible  
 MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

LAST WORDS  
 8.8.4.4.10.

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TOPICS: Jesus' Suffering & Death; Lent-Easter

LEAD-IN: *When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." (John 19:26-27, NIV)*

*The thief said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)*

*Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34, NIV)*

*About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice... "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46, NIV)*

*Knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." (John 19:28, NIV)*

*When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." (John 19:30, NIV)*

*"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. (Luke 23:46, NIV)*

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

## **Jesus' Last Words**

*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*  
(Luke 23:34, NIV)

*I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.*  
(Luke 23:43, NIV)

*When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother."*  
(John 19:26-27, NIV)

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*  
(Matthew 27:46, NIV)

*I am thirsty.*  
(John 19:28, NIV)

*It is finished.*

(John 19:30, NIV)

*Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.*

(Luke 23:46, NIV)

Imagine that you are Jesus on the day of your death. Look around. Who do you see?

- the religious leaders, proud, self-righteous, angry, blind to their own murderous jealousy
- Judas, a close friend whose heart had wandered and who turned you in for a few pieces of silver
- the disciples, who lived with you for three years then deserted you in fear in your time of trouble
- Pilate, who sensed the truth but was too weak to act on it
- Herod, who held your life in his hands but was only concerned with his own entertainment
- sadistic soldiers, to whom you were cruel sport
- a thief hanging next to you, taunting You in an effort to save himself
- the crowd of people, a mixture of mindless mob and curiosity seekers.

In short, you're surrounded by humanity. To them, you're a criminal, a blasphemer, a financial opportunity, a pawn, a scapegoat, a fool, a buffoon. Your pain is their afternoon's entertainment. You've given yourself for these people, and they're crushing you with their indifference, injustice, torture, humiliation, and the most agonizing death they can devise.

Every fiber of your being is screaming in pain and begging for relief. You are in your final moments. What is on your mind?

Most people being crucified would have filled their last hours with angry curses and bitterness. Read Jesus' final words. Listen as He speaks them. What is on His heart during these moments?

***Forgiveness*** for those killing Him and for the thief. Pain never overwhelmed the love in His heart.

***Care for those He loved.*** Mary must have longed for a word from her son, and Jesus didn't disappoint her. Even as He died, He provided for her and bestowed a great honor on John.

***Abandonment.*** Jesus' deepest sorrow was feeling cut off from His Father. But how did He express it? He prayed, using words from Psalm 22. Read the psalm. It's a moving expression of desperate complaint and ultimate trust. Even when separated from His Father, Jesus turned to Him and trusted Him.

***His thirst.*** Having cared for others, He cried out in His own need, again fulfilling Psalm 22 (v. 15). The drink apparently gave Him strength for His final words.

***Triumph.*** To the very end, Jesus' thoughts were of His Father and His mission. His final words were a cry of victory. "It is completed! Father, I lay My life in Your hands!"

Lord, when I die, when I am losing everything I am and everything I hold, will I be looking to You, reaching for the completion of Your work, loving those around me, trusting my life into Your hands? May it be so, my Lord Jesus.

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