

The Last Words Of Christ

(Part 1)

Scripture Reading:

Luke 23:33-46

“Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)

- Words reveal a man’s heart. **1 Peter 2:23**
- The Lord recognized the ignorance (**Acts 3:17; 17:30-31**) which Peter’s first gospel sermon would quickly address (**Acts 2:24-26, 36**)
 - Which Jesus had commissioned them to proclaim (**Mark 16:15-16**)

“Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)

- What about us? **Colossians 3:12-14**
“... just as the Lord forgave you ...”
- We need a forgiving heart. Our forgiveness depends on it. **Matthew 6:12-15; 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:31-32**
- We need to be conscious of our guilt. **Psalms 130:3-4**
- Forgiveness can turn guilt into joy. **Psalms 32:1-5**

“Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:42-43)

- Much discussion and much error.
- The preceding request: *“Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!”*
- Jesus Christ had authority to forgive sins on earth. **Matthew 9:1-8**

“Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:42-43)

- What is paradise?
 - A royal park or garden – a “place of blessedness above the earth.”
 - In the Septuagint used in **Genesis 2:15** and **3:23** to describe the Garden of Eden
 - cf. **Revelation 2:7**, “... to him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God ...”
 - **Luke 16:19-28**, described as Abraham’s bosom in the Hadean realm – opposite torment

“Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:42-43)

- Jesus’ desire is that we be with Him. **John 17:24; Revelation 14:13; Luke 16:25**
 - In a prepared place that’s eternal. **John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 1 Peter 1:3-4.**
 - More than just being with Christ ... **Revelation 3:21; Romans 8:14-17**
- Now that the kingdom is established ... **Colossians 1:13; Romans 6:1-11**

“Woman, behold, your son!” Then He said to the disciple, **‘Behold your mother!’** (John 19:26-27)

- To be in Christ is to have a new spiritual family. **Matthew 12:47-50; 1 Timothy 5:1-2**
- To take priority over our fleshly families. **Matthew 10:34-37**
- We can become adopted members of God’s household. **Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 4:4-7;** *“See how great a love ... that we should be called children of God ...”* **1 John 3:1-2**