

## 7 RECORDED SAYINGS OF JESUS FROM THE CROSS

### With Commentary

1. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

*Amazing grace! Jesus was gracious while he was dying as he had been all through his life. Imagine forgiving those who put him on the cross! Jesus never runs out of forgiveness – even today.*

2. "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

*Jesus made this promise to the dying criminal who had humbled himself and asked for mercy. The salvation that Jesus offered to all who would believe in him throughout his ministry was still being offered while he was dying. Thank God, it is still available today!*

3. "Dear woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother."

*From the cross Jesus noticed his mother, Mary, and John, his beloved disciple. They would miss him when he was gone. Jesus told Mary to consider John to be her son now; he asked John to treat Mary as though she were his mother. That very day John took Mary into his household. Jesus cares about our needs too, and asks us to help each other.*

4. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

*Out of the darkness – the midday darkness – came this loud, heart-wrenching cry, the high point of his agony. Jesus knew the answer to his question, for it had been written long before by King David: "But you are holy." Too holy to even look at Jesus while he was bearing our sins in his body on the cross. What deep, deep suffering!*

5. "I am thirsty."

*Jesus said this so that the Scriptures would be fulfilled. By admitting his need, Jesus gave the people an opportunity to serve him, and they did so. A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. He received that drink. Today he says that whenever we feed the hungry, give the thirsty something to drink, clothe or visit the needy, we are doing it to him!*

6. "It is finished."

*Before his arrest, Jesus had prayed, "I have brought glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began." That prayer was certainly answered. The work of Jesus was now gloriously finished; his suffering was over. What a triumph!*

7. "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

*The Bible says that Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." And when he said this, he breathed his last. He was in control all the time! A Roman soldier, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely, this was a righteous man." Yes, indeed, and more than that: our Lord and our God!*

*But now he was dead. His body was wrapped in a linen cloth and laid in a tomb – a sealed, guarded tomb. Was this the end? No! Our story has such a happy ending. You cannot keep God in a tomb! Three days later the tomb was empty. Jesus had risen from the dead! And never again will he die. We can count on that!*

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