

CALL to PRAYER - Pray for an enemy. Pray for a problem person in your life.

Luke 23:33-34 - Cross Words 1

Intro - New series about the 7 sayings Jesus said upon the cross... *Cross Words*. These *Sacred 7* are most precious jewels that enrich our faith. On the cross Christ was “redeeming us by His blood but also instructing us with His word” (Flavel). Jesus’ last words (while dying) ought to have a lasting impact upon us. Dying words are weighty words, especially from a loved one. We’re going to examine these *Sacred 7 Cross Words* – they will humble us, challenge us, teach us & change us

The Context of the CrossWords

1. Pain often produces profanity in humanity. Expletives can fly if things are excruciating
 - a. I am not usually at my best when I feel my worse - tired, hurt, sick, headache...
 - i. My kids call me “grumpy/grump pa” for a reason
 - b. Pain, turmoil, hardships..... difficulty shows where I am most faulty
2. Jesus was at His best when He felt the worse. (He has no *best* because He’s *perfect*) (respectfully and humanly saying) – when things were darkest/brightest...lowest/highest
 - a. Jesus was _____ strong when physically _____.
 - i. This is **CrossWord lesson #1**
 - b. Jesus had no sleep the night before. (When I pull an all-nighter, I’m trash the next day)
 - c. He had great sorrow – Mark 14:34 Under unbearable anxiety (sweat blood)
 - d. Betrayed by kiss.... Forsaken by friends – Matt. 26:31, 56 He suffered alone
 - e. Jesus witnessed Peter calling down curses in his denial of Him - Luke 22:61
 - f. Crowds He healed now heckled Him & shouted to crucify Him (4 d earlier “Hosanna”)
 - g. abused, beaten, scourged, stripped, spat, forsaken, paraded, mocked, nailed...
 - i. Think of the emotional agony and physical turmoil! Is. 53:3 (Is. 49:7a)
3. The setting of the 7 makes them all the more remarkable. Christ is impeccable!
 - a. The context to the *CrossWords* is excruciating _____ - physical & emotional
 - b. When Jesus felt His worse is when these words fell/flew from His lips

Praying while Persecuted

- Jesus’ pain prompted Him to _____, but not for Himself...but for others.
 - More than that.....Jesus prayed for those causing His pain!
 - **CrossWord lesson #2** Pray for an _____
 - Nemo clip Hard to say but even harder to do
- Jesus preached that we should pray for our enemies
 - Matt. 5:43-48
 - It is hard to abhor who you pray for. Stay on your knees and you wont stay mad
- Jesus practiced what He preached Is. 53:12e
 - When cursed He blessed....when persecuted He prayed....when hurt He helped
 - Jesus was kind to a world that was cruel...and most cruel to Him. Luke 6:35
 - Jesus was _____ & our His example - 1 Peter 2:21-23; 3:9-11 (1 Cor. 4:12-13)

Giving the Forgiving

1. When Jesus prayed for His enemies...(important note)...He did not address His enemies
 - a. Jesus addresses His _____ about His enemies
 - b. Jesus did not personally forgive His enemies and say, "I forgive you"
 - i. Jesus is giving the forgiving over to the Father
2. CrossWord lesson #3 is _____ the anguish
 - a. Jesus was spiritually strong when physically weak. And at the depth of despair Jesus prayed for His persecutors, giving the forgiving over to the Father
 - i. He relinquished the anguish. 1 Peter 2:23
3. Jesus' impeccable character is also very practical when dealing with those who hurt us
 - a. Immediate personal forgiveness is not given, but a giving it over to the Father.
 - i. The proper response to inflicted pain is to RELINQUISH
 - b. Rom. 12:17-21
 - c. Don't get _____, send it to _____. Give it to God
 - d. Pass the pain over to God in the process of praying for your enemies
4. Jesus wanted the best for those who treated Him the worse. (Flavel)
 - a. He didn't ask for revenge but for restoration of relationship & repentance
 - b. Jesus asked the Father to fix them, not to nix them
 - c. Jesus asked the Father to forgive them, not to forget them
 - d. Relinquishing the anguish while praying for an enemy is a powerful thing

Grasping the Gravity

- Relinquishing is not ignoring reality.
 - Jesus understood, and acknowledged, the full extent of what was going on.
 - In fact, Jesus was the only one who fully grasped the gravity of the situation
 - CrossWord lesson #4 is _____ Understand their _____
 - "Father, forgive them they "KNOW NOT" what they do"
 - Those that _____ us cannot grasp the depth of what they do to us
 - Jesus understood their ignorance
 - Many in the crowd got caught up in the emotion (+ & -) "*Hosanna*" & "*Crucify*"
 - They committed the crime not grasping the gravity of the crime
- Not all were completely ignorant of what they were doing to the Son of God
 - John 8:28 John 9:41 John 15:22-24 Matt. 21:37-38, 45
- But many were ignorant and did not grasp the gravity of what they were doing
 - Acts 3:17-19 1 Cor. 2:8
- Jesus *understood their ignorance*. He *relinquished His anguish*. He *prayed for an enemy* and Jesus showed that He was *spiritually strong when physically weak*
 - God answered this prayer that was prompted by pain
 - Two months later 3000 were forgiven!
 - Acts 2:23, 37-41
 - Some of the very ones who shed the blood of Jesus found out that that blood was shed for them.