

The Seven Sayings from the Cross

1. Father, forgive ...

Luke 23.33-34: When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*" And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

2. Woman, here is your son

John 19.26-27: 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.*" From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

3. Today ... in paradise

Luke 23.42-43: Then he 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.*"

4. Why have you forsaken me?

Matthew 27.45-46: From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*" – which means, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*"

5. I thirst

John 19.28-29: Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "*I am thirsty.*" 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.

6. It is finished

John 19.30: When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "*It is finished.*" With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

7. Into your hands ...

Luke 23.46: Jesus called out with a loud voice, "*Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.*" When he had said this, he breathed his last.

A young man on a low cross

- loves his enemies – who need forgiveness
- cares and acts for those who stand needy before him
- accepts and assures those who recognise their need and his kingship and who appeal to him
- takes the wrath, darkness, and agony due to others so they enjoy the welcome, light, and comfort of God
- perfectly fulfills the Father's will so that history is changed, sin's debt paid, and redemption secured
- entrusts himself to the Father who will vindicate and enthrone him.

We

- face up to these things for ourselves – where else can we go?
- adore, trust, celebrate, feast, follow
- pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters
- say, with the apostle Paul (Galatians 6.14), ...

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ