

# Passion Week Devotionals



Of

Shelbyville First Baptist Church

**Day 1** by Pastor Dan Reid

**Luke 23:34 (ESV)**

And Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”** And they cast lots to divide his garments.

We will be looking to what are called “The Seven Words of Christ on the Cross.” This is the first of those seven.

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Think about the last time you had stress or, even worse, some sort of trauma. What was your mindset at that moment? Was it to give someone a blessing or to take care of your needs and get out of that whatever it was? Probably for most it would be the former, not the latter because in those painful moments, our own pain ... our own trauma is all we can see or think about.

But here is Jesus. Just a few days ago, He rode into Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowds of people. Yelling “Hosanna” and “blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” Now, those cheers have literally turned to jeers as they cheered for His death. His disciples, all but John, are nowhere around. Peter has denied Him. He has been beaten by soldiers’ fists, whipped with scourges, His beard pulled out, He had been spit upon, nailed to a cross and left to die in humiliation as they left Him there naked. It into this context that Jesus speaks these powerful words - “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

It into this supreme act of love ... the ultimate sacrifice ... that Jesus asks something big of God. Jesus doesn’t forgive them but asks God to do so. He has a heart of love and forgiveness for those who are crucifying Him on the cross He hung on. As the old worship song asks, “how long, how wide, how deep, how high is the love of Christ?” That is the love Jesus showed there on the cross and the love He shows today for all who believe and call on Him in repentance.

**Day 2** - by Martin Gureasko

**Luke 23:43 Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise**

As Jesus hung on the cross, He spoke words of unimaginable grace to a dying criminal: “Today you will be with me in paradise.” These words remind us that salvation is not earned - it is a gift. The thief had nothing to offer, no good works to present, no time to fix his life. He simply acknowledged who Jesus was and asked to be remembered. That was enough. In that moment, Jesus demonstrated the heart of the gospel: mercy for the repentant, hope for the

hopeless, and immediate access to His presence. This promise wasn't just for the thief—it's for us too. No matter how far we've fallen or how late in life we turn to Him, His grace is still available.

Paradise isn't just a future destination—it's the reality of being with Jesus. Even in our darkest moments, we can find peace in His presence. May this verse remind us that we're never too far gone, and that the door to paradise is open through the love and mercy of Christ.

### **Prayer**

Lord, thank You for Your grace that reaches even to the last breath. Help me trust in You today and rest in the promise of Your presence.

## **Day 3** - by Martin Gureasko

***John 19:26–27***

***Behold Your Son... Behold Your Mother***

As Jesus hung in agony on the cross, His thoughts weren't only on the weight of the world's sin - He was also thinking about His mother. With His final breaths, He made sure Mary would be cared for, entrusting her to John, the beloved disciple. "Woman, behold your son... Behold your mother."

These tender words reveal the depth of Jesus' compassion and the value He places on relationships. Even in suffering, He models love, honor, and responsibility. He teaches us that true faith is never disconnected from real-life care for others.

Jesus also redefines family—not by blood alone, but by spiritual bond. At the cross, a new kind of community is born: one where we care for one another as family because of our shared connection to Christ.

In a world that often overlooks the hurting and the vulnerable, may we be like Jesus—seeing others in their need and responding with love.

### **Prayer**

Lord, thank You for showing us what it means to care deeply, even in the midst of pain. Help us love others as family and live out Your compassion in everyday ways.

## **Day 4** - by Brett Powell

***Matthew 27:46***

***My God, My God***

"Eli, Eli lema sabachtani" "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Separation. Separation like our Savior had never felt. So often when we look at the story of the cross, we see the image of someone who is fully God going through unimaginable pain, humiliation and betrayal. To be honest, that is a true way to look at this because Jesus was and is and will always be fully God. But in this moment, we need to remember who Jesus was. He was fully God and that when he came to earth, he took on humanity that he would be fully human. It's hard for

us to grasp how Jesus can be 100% God and 100% human at the same time because we can't be 200% anything. Growing up I was a bit snarky, so I can confess that I was likely to roll my eyes when I had a teacher or coach tell me to give 110%, because, and I quote, "That's not how math works". But Jesus isn't bound by the restraints of this world like we are, because as much as I want to, I cannot walk on water, I can't tell the lepers skin to heal. I can't tell those who have passed away to walk out of their grave, but Jesus can and did.

It does get hard with passages like this because we are confronted with the reality that Jesus was fully human with human emotions and feelings. This was a new place for Jesus with whom he had always had perfect union with he now had separation. So, when we ask "What did Jesus really give up for me"? it was every- thing. He gave up his humanity and his connection to the father for a time. He did it because he knew that you were worth it. He was willing to give it up to pay for your sins.

**Day 5** by Chad Lynn

**John 19:28**

**I am Thirsty.**

At the beginning of verse 28, the text says, "After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill Scripture), "I thirst." Throughout the Old Testament there are prophecies that tell of Jesus and certain things that would happen with Jesus. There is a Bible that we recommend for families to use with their young children called the "Jesus Storybook Bible." It has the phrase under the title, "Every Story Whispers His Name." I love that phrase because throughout the Old Testament we see that God had a plan to rescue us through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. His love is amazing!

Jesus says "I Thirst." This is the second to last phrase that Jesus says before he dies. He knows that every plan and every step that God had planned had been fulfilled and completed. I think he was physically thirsty as his mouth was dry but more importantly, he was thirsty spiritually. Jesus said early in His ministry in John 6:35, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." He was showing us to go to the Father. When we believe in Him, we will never thirst because He will quench that thirst." In John 6:38-40, Jesus continues to tell us that He has "come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me." In verse 40 and multiple times through Scripture, Jesus says if we "believes in him should have eternal life." Believe in Jesus and surrender to Him! Jesus died for all of us! Happy Easter, Jesus is Alive!

## **Day 6** by Brett Powell

**John 19:30**

**It is Finished.**

Jesus final words before death as recorded in the Gospel of John " It is finished". This is a statement that is so short and to the point that we can understand it, and yet, at the same time, the weight of this is big enough that we can bask in it and see the glory of a savior. On May 13, 1865, the Battle of Palmita Ranch Texas occurred, where a combined 800 soldiers from the Union and Confederacy fought. Up to 30 people died in this battle. The biggest problem with this battle is that the war ended over a month before. Although we are not sure why this battle took place, there are guesses. At this point information traveled slowly so they may not have known that the war was over. Another option is that maybe one side wasn't as ready to give up the fight and take to peace as their leadership. Wherever the truth lies, we see something important. This battle did not change the fact that the war was over. How often are we fighting a fight that's already been won? When Jesus died on the cross, he did not say "I will finish this". He did not say "I am done for now". No, he did not even say "I've done my part and they will finish the rest". When he said, "It is finished", it was finished. His work here on earth had been completed on the cross. Our salvation paid for with the perfect blood of the lamb.

So today rest in the truth that it is finished. Your Salvation was bought. We can trust in the Lord to complete what he starts.

## **Day 7** by Pastor Dan Reid

**Luke 23:46 (ESV)**

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, **"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!"** And having said this he breathed his last.

This is the final of the words from the cross and in it you will see Jesus' sovereignty and control over all that was happening to Him. There were times during His ministry that people wanted to make Him King – but it was not time, so He slips away from the crowd. There were other times that people wanted to kill Him then and there. But again, it was not the time for Him to die, so scripture records they looked for Him to throw stones at Him or to arrest Him, but He slipped from their midst. He was always in control of the situation.

Here, on the cross, we see something similar (something that you have been reading about in

the previous days' devotionals). After Jesus had provided care for His mother, we read these words:

"After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), 'I thirst.'" **(John 19:28)**

Jesus knew all that had been prophesied. All that had to happen before He died. Earlier Jesus told His disciples ... "I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I

lay it down of my own accord. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." **(John 10:17–18)** This supreme act of love was planned from before Adam and Eve took their first breaths. Something that was necessary and something that would happen according to His plan.

So, when we read Jesus declare "It is finished," it was not until all was finished that Jesus would surrender His body to death. His blood was not spilt as one old hymn writer says, but Jesus

poured out His blood that day of His own will and volition. He took your sins to the cross and would not speak those last two words "it is finished" and "Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit" until all He came do was complete.

That is the love of the Savior. Don't miss this. Don't miss the intentionality of the great love of our great Savior over our great sin. As the old chorus states ...

*Oh, how He loves you and me,  
Oh, how He loves you and me.  
He gave His life, what more could He give?  
Oh, how He loves you,  
Oh, how He loves me,  
Oh, how He loves you and me.*

