

# The Last Sermon

As Jesus hung on the cross, struggling painfully for each breath, He uttered seven short, powerful statements showing who He was and what was happening, and encouraging those who would follow Him. It was His last sermon.

1. "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

Jesus is not only practicing the forgiveness He preached (Matt. 5:44), He is asserting His divinity as God who forgives sin (Ps. 103:3). Beyond that, however, He is announcing the beginning of the New Covenant under which our sins will be forgiven (Jer. 31:33-34).

- "I tell you the Truth, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).

Jesus' promise of life to the criminal on the cross tells us that He has authority over Heaven (Ps. 115:16), He will conquer death (Psalm 16:10), and through Him we also will live (John 14:19). He is the priest of the New Covenant because of His indestructible life (Heb. 7:16-17).

***Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!***

- "Dear woman, here is your Son... here is your mother" (John 19:26-27).

Jesus took time to entrust His mother into the care of the beloved Disciple John, fulfilling the Scripture at Psalm 69:8 that He was estranged from His brothers and showing us, that God expects us to honor our family (Mark 7:10-13). We are also

reminded that Jesus was the “Seed of Woman”, the Savior born to a virgin as promised in Genesis 3:15, who was being “bruised in the heel” on the cross and who will triumph by “crushing the head” of the serpent Satan.

- “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46).

Many of those who heard Jesus, and many commentators since, have failed to understand that Jesus is quoting the Hebrew title of the Psalm 22. Jesus sends us to Psalm 22 to show us that 1,000 years earlier it was prophesied that Jesus would be mocked (Ps. 22:6-8) and even prophesying the very words of His mockers (Matt. 27:41-43). In one sense, He was mocking His mockers. The crucifixion is also described, as His hands and feet were pierced (Ps. 22:16), His clothes were divided by casting lots (Ps. 22:14), and it was difficult to speak (Ps. 22:15).

Yet Psalm 22 is not a picture of forsakenness or despair but is instead a declaration of victory. God did not hide his face or despise the suffering of Jesus (Ps. 22:24). Rather, God used it to purchase eternal life (Ps. 22:26) and promised that all nations will come to Jesus (Ps. 22: 27-28). Jesus is telling us that He knew the price and gladly paid it.

- “I am thirsty” (John 19:28).

This is another fulfillment of prophecy (Ps. 69:28), when the suffering Savior is given vinegar for His thirst. Yet in the midst of His pain and distress, Jesus used Psalm 69 to tell us that those who seek God will live (Ps. 69:12), and the God does not despise the suffering of His people (Ps. 69:33). There is also the promise that His people will rebuild Judah (Ps. 69:35-36), an apparent reference to His promise to return.

***Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!***

- "It is finished" (John 19:30).

To fully understand this statement, we believe that we need to look to the prophet Daniel. He foretold the coming of the Anointed One who would come 483 years (69×7) after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (458 B.C.), or A.D. 26, and then be "cut off" in the midst of the next seven years (Dan. 9:25, 26). Jesus is telling us that He has fulfilled Daniel's prophecy to finish transgression, put an end to Sin, atone for wickedness, bring eternal righteousness, seal up prophecy and anoint the Holy One (Dan. 9:24). This is the finished work of Jesus on the cross.

- "Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 43:46).

The last words of Jesus on the cross are taken from Psalm 31. He is telling us that we can take refuge in God (Ps. 31:1-4) and that we can trust God with our life (Ps. 31:15). Our times are in His hands (Ps. 31:19-22) and He preserves the faithful (Ps. 31:23, 24).

With His last sermon Jesus told us what He was doing even as

He was doing it.

With his last words He is telling us that God's hands are the only safe place for our lives.

Can you join Him in saying "Father, into Your hands I commit my Spirit?"

***Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!***

---

## **Good Friday: The Day the Innocent Died for the Guilty**

*Note: This is the next installment of Charisma's Holy Week series.*

As dawn broke over Jerusalem, the city stirred awake unaware that this day would mark the most pivotal moment in human history. Jesus of Nazareth, the healer, the teacher, the miracle-worker—now bound and bruised—stood before the religious and political powers of the age. Betrayed by a kiss and abandoned by His closest friends, He faced a series of sham trials, false accusations and merciless injustice. Yet, He did not resist. He had come for this.

***Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!***

In the early morning hours, Jesus was led before Caiaphas the high priest and the Sanhedrin. They searched for testimony against Him, but none could agree. Finally, the high priest asked directly:

*“Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God.” (Matt. 26:63)*

Jesus replied, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” (v. 64)

The high priest tore his garments in outrage and declared Him guilty of blasphemy. The decision was made—He must die. But the Jewish leaders lacked the authority to carry out a death sentence under Roman rule. So they brought Jesus before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.

Pilate found no fault in Him. Even after questioning, and learning that Jesus was from Galilee, he sent Him to Herod Antipas, who mocked Jesus and sent Him back. The crowd, stirred by the chief priests, demanded crucifixion. Pilate, trying to avoid further unrest, offered to release one prisoner according to custom—Jesus or Barabbas, a known insurrectionist.

***Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!***

*“Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” they said, “Barabbas!” Pilate said, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said to him, “Let Him be crucified!” (Matt. 27:21–22)*

Pilate symbolically washed his hands, declaring himself innocent of Jesus’ blood and handed Him over to be scourged and crucified.

The Roman soldiers stripped Jesus, put a scarlet robe on Him and twisted a crown of thorns into His head. They mocked Him, spat on Him and beat Him. Then they led Him out to a place

called Golgotha—"The Place of a Skull."

There they crucified Him.

Nails were driven into His hands and feet. He was lifted up between two criminals, fulfilling the words of Isaiah: "He was numbered with the transgressors" (Isa. 53:12). Above His head, a sign read: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

Even as He hung there in agony, Jesus prayed:

*"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."  
(Luke 23:34)*

The soldiers gambled for His garments. Bystanders mocked. The religious leaders jeered, saying, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save."

One of the criminals crucified next to Him joined in the insults. But the other rebuked him and turned to Jesus:

*"Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."  
(Luke 23:42)*

And Jesus replied with eternal assurance:

*"Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in  
Paradise."  
(v. 43)*

Darkness fell over the land from noon until 3 p.m. At the end, Jesus cried out:

*"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46)*

Then, with a loud voice, He declared:

*“It is finished!” (John 19:30)*

*“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” (Luke 23:46)*

At that moment, the earth shook. Rocks split. The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom—signifying that the barrier between God and man had been removed. Even a Roman centurion, witnessing these things, declared:

*“Truly this was the Son of God!” (Matt. 27:54)*

The Lamb had been slain. The perfect sacrifice had been offered. He bore our griefs, carried our sorrows and was pierced for our transgressions. Though the sky was dark and hope seemed lost, redemption was unfolding.

Jesus’ body was taken down before sundown, and a man named Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for His body. Gently, they wrapped Him in a clean linen cloth and laid Him in a new tomb cut out of rock.

The stone was rolled into place.

The world went silent.

***Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!***

***Prepared by Charisma Media Staff.***

---

# Break Free from Your Past This Passover, Because God Still Delivers

In an interview on Jennifer Bagnaschi's Deeper Believer, Turnbo detailed his fascinating encounter that took place in the heavenly realm. Turnbo says he met King Solomon, the wisest man to walk the earth apart from Christ, seated at a table with other kings from various nations and eras. But it wasn't the grandeur of royalty that marked the moment—it was Solomon's confession.

***Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!***

"All that wisdom that I gained, that I thought was valuable," Turnbo recounted Solomon saying, "Nothing. Everything is meaningless. He is truth. He is all. He's everything."

That "He" is Jesus. Solomon—who amassed not only wisdom and wealth but also hundreds of wives and concubines—made a candid admission in heaven that stunned Turnbo: that his pursuits, even those backed by supernatural wisdom, became vanity because they were centered on things outside of God.

"He said, 'It allowed me to chase after things that just didn't matter,'" Turnbo shared. "It became vanity. It became meaningless."

***Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up to date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!***

For those familiar with Solomon's story in 1 Kings and Ecclesiastes, this reflection echoes Scripture. Despite starting his reign with divine wisdom and building the

majestic Temple of the Lord, Solomon's heart turned as he grew older, drawn away by his many wives who worshipped foreign gods. His own writings in Ecclesiastes mourn the futility of worldly pursuits: "Meaningless! Meaningless! ... Everything is meaningless" (Eccl. 1:2).



***To order Jennifer Bagnaschi's new book, The Devil's Greatest Fear, visit .***

But Turnbo's encounter gives a personal, post-mortem glimpse into that regret-spoken from heaven itself. It's a reminder that not even divine wisdom is a substitute for wholehearted devotion to God.

This moment serves as a sobering call for today's believers: wisdom, status, success—even spiritual gifts—mean nothing if they lead us away from the simplicity of loving Jesus. Turnbo's heavenly vision reveals that even the wisest among us can get lost when they shift their eyes from the One who is truth.

In the end, it's not success, knowledge or even legacy that matters—it's Him. Jesus is the only pursuit that will echo in eternity.

***Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!***

***Abby Trivett is content development editor for Charisma Media.***

---

# **A Night of Revelation:**

# **Discover How Passover Unfolds the Mystery of Jesus**