

The Seven Last Words of Christ

The “Seven Last Words of Christ” are actually not seven “words” but seven phrases/expressions attributed to Jesus during his crucifixion. These phrases are gathered from the four Canonical Gospels. Three of the sayings appear exclusively in the Gospel of Luke and three appear exclusively in the Gospel of John. The other saying appears both in the Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of Matthew.

Since the 16th century these sayings have been widely used in sermons on Good Friday as well as points for reflection during the Lenten season. Entire books have been written on the theological analysis, and the devotional elements of the seven sayings. Art and music have also been influenced by these seven sayings with one of the most famous cantatas being Theodore Dubois’ “Seven Last Words of Christ.”

If you wish to delve deeper into these sayings, see the recommended readings listed inside this brochure.

This year’s **Lenten Bible Study** will also focus on the Seven Last Words of Christ. Join us from noon to 1pm in room 223.

March 1, 15, 22, 29 April 5

First United Methodist Church

401 W. Randolph, Enid, OK 73701
580-237-2041

www.firstchurchenid.com



At The Cross

**Lenten Reflections
on the
Last Words of Jesus**

The Seven Last Words of Christ

First Word – Lent 1 – week of Feb 26

Luke 23: 32-38

- * How well do I handle forgiving those who have hurt me or someone I care about?
- * Is there currently anyone I need to forgive?

Second Word – Lent 2 – week of Mar 4

Luke 23: 39-43

- * Have I been really honest with God and myself about my sins/shortcomings?
- * Is there anything I should confess to God this week?

Third Word – Lent 3 – week of Mar 11

John 19: 26-27

- * Who are the people that help me grow as a person?
...as a Christian?
- * Do I need to spend more time with any of the special people in my life? How? When?

Fourth Word – Lent 4 – week of Mar 18

Matthew 27: 45-49

Jesus uses these opening verses of Psalm 22 to speak his feelings on the cross...

- * Read Psalm 22 – which parts of this Psalm reflect my current feelings?
- * What can I do this week to strengthen my relationship with God?

Fifth Word – Lent 5 – week of Mar 25

John 19: 28-29

- * Have I been honest with God about what I need most in my life right now?
- * What specific requests should I make to God that would strengthen me this week?

Sixth Word – Lent 6 – week of Apr 1

John 19: 30

- * Do I have an understanding of God's will for my life right now?
- * How am I fulfilling God's will for my life?

Seventh Word – Good Friday – April 6

Luke 23: 46-49

- * Do I really trust God enough to place my whole life in God's hands?
- * What part of my life do I still need to relinquish into God's hands?

Recommended reading for further reflection:

* *Final Words From The Cross* by Adam Hamilton—Each chapter of this book provides an interesting first person story told from the perspective of one of the people who would have been at the cross. This is followed by reflections on the meaning of one of the last words of Jesus.

* *Thank God It's Friday – Encountering the Seven Last Words from the Cross* by William H. Willimon—As usual, Bishop Willimon provides a thought-provoking book. This one just might change the way you view Jesus' last words from the cross! *[this is the book being used for the Lenten Bible Study on Thursdays at noon]*