

Cries From The Cross

A journey into the heart of Jesus

Devotionals adapted and edited from the book,
Cries from the Cross: A Journey into the Heart of Jesus by Erwin W. Lutzer

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Passion Week: A Cry of Submission

And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.

† Luke 23:46 †

"And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice..."

Last words... are lasting words. Faith is to be passed on... as the dying affirm their faith to the living. What would our last words be? When we learn how Jesus died, we will never think of death in the same way again. He who went before us showed us the way and invites us to join Him in the world beyond. He cried with a loud voice... see the passion of the Savior agonizing in pain with love as the glue that held Him to the Cross. The darkness was forever over; the suffering now finished... the last breath of our Lord was a loud victorious, submissive cry.

"Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'"

Today is the day; coming since the history of time began. Where did the

spirit of Jesus go at death? His human spirit with its desires, aspirations, and affections went to the Father in paradise, there to meet the thief who would be arriving later that day. Jesus' spirit would be united with His body three days later at the time of the Resurrection. None of the New Testament writers are content to simply say that Jesus died; they say that His spirit went into the hands of God. They want us to understand that His death was not the end but the beginning of a new relationship.

We should not be surprised that His death was an act of obedience: Jesus chose to die. His spirit was under control until He voluntarily "gave it up" to the Father. His life was not wrested from Him by the throes of death. Of all the places any of us would rather be physically, mentally, or spiritually; the

Series Overview

Week 1	A Cry of Pardon Luke 23:34
Week 2	A Cry of Assurance Luke 23:43
Week 3	A Cry of Compassion John 19:26-27
Week 4	A Cry of Anguish Mark 15:34

Passion Week

Monday	A Cry of Suffering John 19:28
Wednesday	A Cry of Victory John 19:30
Good Friday	A Cry of Submission Luke 23:46

Hands of God has to be the best option available. On this day in history that is your story, remember you don't have to be on a crucifix in order to commit your life to the Father. Jesus died so that you and I would not have to... wherever you are, whatever your status or station, regardless of your other past, present, or intended future... take a moment now to, "commit your life and spirit into the hands of God."

Questions to Explore This Week: Are you willing to follow the Lord all the way to the Cross; how will your life be different because of Christ's love for you?

"Having said this, He breathed His last."

Many of the saints have died with these last words of Jesus on their lips. When the stones began to fly, Stephen, the first Christian martyr, prayed, "...Lord Jesus, receive my spirit..." (Acts 7:59). This is the only place in Scripture that we see Jesus "...standing at the right hand of God" ready to receive His servant. At Calvary, Jesus submitted His will... and His spirit to the Lord as a demonstration of the awesome power of God's love. No wonder the Apostle Paul would declare, "... that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead." (Phil. 3:10-11).

This week, give your life to Jesus—all over again. With each passing day of your life, you will discover His love grows sweeter and sweeter with the passage of time. We don't know when, but we can know what our dying desire will be – *Into Your hands, I commit my spirit.*

Epilogue – As we prepare our hearts for Resurrection Sunday, we pray these last seven weeks of the Cries of Christ have been a blessing to you. As Christians, we stand with Christ as Ambassadors of the Cross – ready to live... and die in the Lord. But until then, we still have a lot of living to do. God desires to use us in His service. We believe God can use a willing soul. You may not have the physical or financial might to make giant steps for God, but if you are willing... we believe the Lord will make you able.

Seven sayings. Seven opportunities to see the heart of God in the flesh. As seven is the number for Divine Completion and Rest; The Cross of Christ is the world's only hope for peace, love and joy. He died on a Friday... but be of good cheer; Sunday is on the way!

– *The SHBC Christian Education Ministry*