

Sunday, 3/17/24

Red Letter Last Words of Christ on the Cross

Week 1:

“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34

Week 2:

“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” Luke 23:39-43

Week 3

*He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!”
Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!”*
John 19:25-27

Week 4

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”
Mark 15:33-34

Week 5

“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” Luke 23:44-46

When you know God is in charge, you can

1. Live life Boldly

“You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers. Acts 7:51-52

“True **boldness** for Christ transcends all, it is indifference to the displeasure of either friends or foes. Boldness enables Christians to forsake all rather than Christ, and to prefer to offend all rather than to offend Him.” - Jonathan Edwards

2. Live life Righteously

When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the

right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."
Acts 7:54-56

"Lord Jesus, You are my **righteousness**, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not." - Martin Luther

When you live righteously ...

- you see what others miss.
- you feel what others ignore.
- you hear what others miss.
- you confront what others avoid.

3. Live life Fearlessly

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. Acts 7:57-58

"Contrary to what we'd hope, good people aren't exempt from violence. Murderers don't give the godly a pass. Rapists don't vet victims according to spiritual résumés. The bloodthirsty and wicked don't skip over the heavenbound. We aren't insulated. But neither are we intimidated. Jesus has a word or two about this brutal world: '**Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul**' "

- Max Lucado

4. Live life Victoriously

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:59-60

"The greatest faith is born in the hour of despair. When we can see no hope and no way out, then faith rises and brings the **victory**."

- Lee Roberson