

It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross (DA 83).

CROSS ROADS: (IN)FAMOUS LAST WORDS

“Malaysia, Good Night”
(Cockpit, Flight MA 370)

- “We are running north and south” (Amelia Earhart)
- “There is no end to sorrow” (Van Gogh)
- “The ladies have to go first” (John Jacob Astor IV, returning in a life boat to the Titanic)
- “Why wait?” (George Eastman)
- “The scruples of a Christian have determined me to expose my own life to any extent, rather than subject myself to the guilt of taking the life of another ... I should rather die innocently than live guilty. ... Remember, my Eliza, you are a Christian” (Alexander Hamilton)
- “What matter how the head lie so the heart be right?” (Sir Walter Raleigh)
- “. . . jam session, probably get busted at my own funeral” (Jimi Hendrix)
- “It might be kind of a relief to be finished. It’s sort of like I don’t know what kind of a yard dash you’re running, but then you’re at the finish line and you sort of sigh - you’ve made it! But you never have - You have to start all over again” (Marilyn Monroe).

CROSS WORDS

1. Luke 23:34

“**F**ather, forgive them!”

2. Luke 23:43

“I say to you today” → Paradise!

3. John 19:26-27

“Behold your son! Behold your mother!”

4. Matthew 27:46

“**M**y God, My God!”

*Jesus died
the way He lived*

5. John 19:28

“I thirst!”

6. Luke 23:46

“**F**ather, into Your hands”

7. John 19:30

“It is finished!”

FATHER: FIRST AND FINAL • OTHERS: PRIORITY • SELF: LAST

CROSS SECTIONS

1. “Father, forgive them”: forgiveness - the most difficult action in the Christian life!

Father: When you have connected to God before a crisis you can connect to Him during your worst crisis! Like Jesus: Isa 53:12 “and made intercession for the transgressors” (490 = 70x7!) - *Enemy love!*
God answered quickly - thief (Lk 23:43); centurion (Lk 23:47); Pentecost (Acts 2); priests (Acts 6:7)

2. I promise you today, - The Power of Punctuation:

- “Woman, without her, man is nothing.” - “Woman, without her man, is nothing.”
- Woman: Can I buy this dress? - “No price to high or No, price too high?!”
- Let’s eat, grandpa! vs Let’s eat grandpa!
- Ice, cream, peaches - Ice-cream, peaches - I scream peaches!

4 Reasons to place the comma *after* TODAY:

- **Internal logic:** Jesus responds to the thief’s future request (“when”) with immediate assurance (“today”)
- **External evidence:** Jesus had not ascended to the Father yet (John 20:17)
- **Luke’s grammar:** verb - adverb (Lk 2:11; 5:26; 12:28; 13:32,33; 22:34, 61; Acts 19:40; 20:26; 22:3; 24:21; 26:2, 29; 27:33)
- **Hebrew oath formula:** Deut 4:1, 26; 6:6; 7:11; 8:19; 11:26; 12:32; 28:13; 30:18-19; 32:46 (also Acts 20:26; 26:2).

3. **Woman, behold your son:** transfer of son-mother responsibility - Jesus takes care of family!

4. **My God, My God, Why have you forsaken Me?!** - My God 2x during God's hiding!

Why: future purpose-oriented, not past-oriented

5. **I thirst:** water in the Gospel of John; now the water of life runs out of water, highlighting his humanity.

6. **Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit:** reversal of life to Adam (Gen 2:7). 3rd appeal to the Father!

7. **It is finished:** not I am finished but **it** = His ministry purpose on earth.

tetelestai: perfect tense = event in the past with effect in the present - on taxation papyri: "paid in full"

ISAIAH 53:1-6 PERSONAL PRONOUNS = SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT

"Who has believed **our** report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 For **He** shall grow up before **Him** as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. **He** has no form or comeliness; And when **we** see **Him**, There is no beauty that **we** should desire **Him**. 3 **He** is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And **we** hid, as it were, our faces from **Him**; **He** was despised, and **we** did not esteem **Him**. 4 Surely **He** has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet **we** esteemed **Him** stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But **He** was wounded for **our** transgressions, **He** was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for **our** peace was upon **Him**, And by **His** stripes **we** are healed. 6 All **we** like sheep have gone astray; **We** have turned, every one, to **his** own way; And the LORD has laid on **Him** the iniquity of **us** all."

THE CROSS: RE-CREATION

- 1) 2nd Adam (Rom 5:14)
- 2) Naked = Adam
- 3) Friday
- 4) Garden
- 5) Tree (Deut 21:23; Gal 5:11)
- 6) Thorns: Gen 3:18
- 7) darkness: Gen 1:2
- 8) "Paradise" (a rare term!): Eden
- 9) "Why have you forsaken me?": Gen 3 (loss of God's presence)
- 10) "Come down": you don't have to die (original lie)
- 11) "It is finished": creation (Gen 1:31-2:3)
- 12) breathed his last (Mk 15:37, 39; Lk 23:46): reversal of Gen 2:7
- 13) earthquake (nature revolting)
- 14) Sabbath rest in tomb
- 15) resurrection: Edenic restoration



"The Priest flicks the animal blood from finger to ground before the veil. The red sin drops through the air as so many dark looks, black tongues, and murky deeds passing from sinner to Sanctuary; thus, carrying sin's tarry prints from my temple only to begrime God's. Sin stored in God's closet; sin dried, cracked, caked and laminated in a stratum of fly-spots and healing scabs. The Sanctuary will be cleansed, but not before it gets dirty. Yet, (and here's a strong irony) God's Temple can only be washed clean with more blood—blood that flies from priestly fingers to splatter God's Throne in spots of gore—life blood lost and then kept to save sinners. The 'keeping' presages a function and an end; the blood accumulates, as does the sin forgiven, until a certain time when sin and sinners will be no more. Meanwhile, God embraces his forgiven ones with their clean faces, teeth and hands—not minding that his own place reeks of what He cannot stand."

Karl Wilcox, Nov. 2013

CROSS CURRENTS

"When Christ bowed His head and died, He bore the pillars of Satan's kingdom with Him to the earth. He vanquished Satan in the same nature over which in Eden Satan obtained the victory. The enemy was overcome by Christ in His human nature. The power of the Saviour's Godhead was hidden. He overcame in human nature, relying upon God for power. This is the privilege of all. In proportion to our faith will be our victory" (*The Youth's Instructor*, April 25, 1901).

"The darkness upon the face of nature expressed her sympathy with Christ in His expiring agony. It evidenced to humanity that the Sun of Righteousness, the Light of the world, was withdrawing His beams from the once favored city of Jerusalem, and from the world. It was a miraculous testimony given of God, that the faith of after generations might be confirmed" (*The Spirit of Prophecy* 3:167; 5BC 1108.2).

"The dark cloud of human transgression came between the Father and the Son. The interruption of the communion between God and His Son caused a condition of things in the heavenly courts which cannot be described by human language. Nature could not witness such a scene as Christ dying in agony while bearing the penalty of man's transgression. God and the angels clothed themselves with darkness, and hid the Saviour from the gaze of the curious multitude while He drank the last dregs of the cup of God's wrath (Letter 139, 1898; 5BC 1108.3).