

The Seventh Saying: A Word of Contentment

Luke 23:46

We come to the very last saying of Christ on the cross of Calvary. Jesus is viewed as the model for how to live (WWJD), but He is also the model for us on how to die. For some, death is a far-off concept. For others, death is thought of often, but there are some common truths for us all. Death is **imminent**, **impartial**, and **irresistible**. So, why do most of us **ignore** death completely? **You are never ready to live until you are ready to die.** Christ's last words reveal a readiness.

- I. I am ready to die when I am secure in my relationship with God - "Father, into your hands."**
 Jesus has said, "My God, my God..." earlier, but now He cries "Father." Jesus bore the wrath of God for sin, but now it is all over. You're not ready to die till God has become your Father.
- A. To know God as Father is possible, not presumptuous** – I John 2:3 – "And hereby do we know that we know Jesus..." I John was written that we might know that we know Christ.
 - B. To know God is in the present, not the past** – our relationship with God should not be built or based on what we have done in the past, but what He means to us right now.
 - C. To know God is a possession, not a profession** – the excitement of "youth camp" will endure for a while, but when there is "no root," the decision fades. Formal professions grow weary "in the race." To live the Christian life involves being born again! "By our fruit we are known," –love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness, meek, gentle, self-controlled.

- II. I am ready to die when I am strong in my understanding of God . . . "Father, into thy hands."**
"The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men" (Matthew 17:22). "The Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners" (Matthew 26:45). "The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men" (Luke 24:7). "Him (Jesus) being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God you with wicked hands have crucified." (Acts 2:23).

God is sovereign over my suffering. He has a purpose for my pain, and though I may not know in full what that purpose is, I will commend my soul and my care to Him. That is being death ready, and it is a concept mostly foreign to this world in 2021. Get to know the power of God.

- III. When I am satisfied with my responsibilities from God - "I commend my Spirit."**
 Jesus said (John 10:17-18). "I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man takes it from me, but I lay it down myself." In other passages, the Bible says that "Jesus yielded up the spirit" (Matt. 27:50) and "gave up his spirit" (John 19:30). God gave Christ the sole responsibility to save sinners as it is written "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (I Timothy 1:15). And Jesus fulfilled His mission. What are your responsibilities? What tasks has God given to you to fulfill as a father, husband, employer, wife, mother, as a child of God? Can you die today with a sense of fulfillment? If not, recommit to those tasks.

Questions for Discussion:

1. How secure are you in your relationship with God? Is He your loving Father?
2. How well do you know and understand God's sovereignty? Are you anxious or afraid?
3. What responsibilities has God given you that you have failed to fulfill? Will you seek forgiveness of those you have wronged, rest in Christ, and recommit to fulfill the tasks?