

From the Pastor's Pen

Last Words

The last words of a dying person tell us a great deal about him. Entrepreneur P. T. Barnum died in 1891. His last words were, "How were the receipts today at Madison Square Garden?" Actor John Barrymore died May 29, 1942. He said, "Die? I should say not, dear fellow, no Barrymore would allow such a conventional thing to happen to him." Before slipping into a coma and dying nine days later, Winston Churchill died January 24, 1965 with these last words, "I'm bored with it all."

However, there is one man in history whose last words not only tells us a great deal about him, but also tells us a great deal about how we should live our lives. Over 2,000 years ago, a man named Jesus of Nazareth hung dying on a cross for the sins of the world. Seven phrases were recorded from His lips on that day. Those famous last words are revelations to us about our Savior and about our own lives as His believers:

1. A man of forgiveness: **Father forgive them for they know not what they do.**" Luke 23:34
2. A man of Mission: **"Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise."** Luke 23:43
3. A man of compassion, He said unto His mother, **"Woman behold thy son!"** Then saith He to the disciple, **"Behold thy mother."** John 19:26b, 27a
4. A man of communion: **"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"** Matthew 27:46
5. A man of humility: **"I thirst."** John 19:28
6. A man of destiny: **"It is finished."** John 19:30
7. A man of submission, **"Father into thy hands I commend my Spirit."** Luke 23:46

Thank God for sending His son to die for us. I thank Jesus for going to the cross and before dying, spoke these powerful words. Words that will forever remind us that we should live our lives in a way that His Last Words will live on in the lives of all of us who believe.

For His Kingdom,
Pastor Radford