

Life Group Discussion Guide

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19
Stuart Jones - April 9, 2017

the
final week

INTRODUCTION

Criticisms about the popular social media site Twitter center on its limiting users to a small number of characters per post—140 characters. Critics seem to think a deeper meaning will come from a greater volume of words.

Jesus teaches us so much in just a few words. As He hung on the cross He taught us about forgiveness, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” He offered a view of the future, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” And, Jesus proclaimed, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

Great meaning is in the words, not the number of words.

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. The famous last words of famous individuals throughout history are easy to find with a single Google search. Why do you think we're so intrigued by a person's last words?
2. Have you ever been punished for something you didn't do? Tell us about it. How did it feel?

EVALUATE IT

1. Read Matthew Luke 23:32-34. How could Jesus ask the Father to forgive those gambling for His clothes?
2. Why does Jesus tell the thief, “Today you will be with me in paradise?” What does this reveal about Jesus' attitude during His Crucifixion?
3. Why did Jesus ask the Father, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Why could the Father not look upon Jesus?
4. Read John 19:30. How do Jesus' words in this phrase relate to the banking world? What is the significance of this phrase?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Stuart said, "What Jesus experienced during His six hours on the cross was the equivalent of my eternity in Hell." What is the significance of that statement to you?
2. Jesus was incredibly compassionate even under the extreme pain of one man's most horrendous forms of execution. How does that inspire/challenge you to be more compassionate in your daily routine?

ILLUSTRATION

If our greatest need had been information,

God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,

God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,

God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,

God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness,

so God sent us a Savior!

- Charles Swindoll, *The Grace Awakening*



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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