

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

Famous Last Words // Part 1

Introduction:

This week Chance begins a new series called '**Famous Last Words**' with '**Part 1**'. Do you ever think about what your last words might be? What would you say to people around you?

This week we will look at some of the last words of Jesus and those around Him during His crucifixion. What do their last words tell us about what was important to them?

Questions:

1. What is crucifixion, what do you know about Roman crucifixion? Why is a discussion of crucifixion important to the review of the last words of Jesus and some of those people around Him?
2. Why was Jesus' position between the 2 criminals being crucified important? What were people crucified for? What do you know about these 2 criminals & why they were being crucified? **Luke 23:32-33**
3. How did Jesus use some of His last words from the cross? Who was He concerned about with His words in the midst of incredible pain? Where did Jesus turn in the worst possible situation? How are His words 'practicing what He taught'? **Luke 23:34**
4. How was Jesus mocked even while he was 'doing the right thing' by humbling Himself & sacrificing Himself for others? What did the mockers acknowledge about Jesus even as they made fun of Him? **Luke 23:35**

5. Who else joined in the mocking of Jesus along with the Jewish religious leaders? How did Jesus respond to those who were 'piling on' to the mocking & humiliation? **Luke 23:36-39**

6. What was different about the last words of the 2nd criminal hung on a cross beside Jesus? What did his words say about Jesus? How does his words to Jesus and the 1st criminal's words represent the 2 options we have in response to Jesus? **Luke 23:40-43**

7. How does the cross force you to choose how to respond to Jesus? How could your last words reveal what choice you made about Jesus, how you lived, what filled your life? Will your last words demonstrate what was most important to you?

Key takeaway: *As Christians, we're forced to wrestle with what our last words will be... will they reflect how we lived our lives or will there be a desperate plea for forgiveness or of regret?*

Summary:

- Crucifixion by the Romans was torture of the worst kind, used to intimidate by humiliation & agonizing public death
- Jesus was crucified between 2 criminals who deserved their punishment, He was a bridge between their 2 fates
- Jesus used His last words in prayer, not for himself but for others... those responsible for His death & those around Him, forgiving His enemies
- Jesus was mocked even while humbling himself by praying for the Jewish leaders & soldiers
- One of the criminals joined in the mocking of Jesus with his last words
- The other criminal used his last words to ask Jesus for forgiveness and salvation, 2 choices in terms of response to Jesus, one on either side
- Your last words reveal what filled up your life, the cross forces a response