

## When Love Speaks: Seven Words from the Cross

### "THE WORD OF LOVE"

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Sunday, March 20, 2011

"Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple (John) whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, 'Dear woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home." John 19:25-27 (NIV)

### TO LOVE LIKE JESUS I MUST ...

#### 1. LEARN TO CARE FOR MY FAMILY

##### FIRST - WE LEARN THAT LOVE PAYS ATTENTION

"Honor your father and your mother." Exodus 20:12 (NIV)

##### SECOND - WE LEARN THAT LOVE PROVIDES FOR NEEDS

"Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God." 1Timothy 5:3-4 (NIV)

"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1Timothy 5:8 (NIV)

##### THIRD - WE LEARN THAT LOVE GIVES EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

#### 2. TREAT OTHER BELIEVERS LIKE FAMILY

"Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. 1Timothy 5:1-2 (NIV)

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10 (NIV)

"Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other." Romans 12:10 (GW)

"Whenever we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

#### 3. SEE OTHER'S PAIN WHEN I'M IN PAIN

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5 (NIV)

"Since Christ suffered and underwent pain, you must have the same attitude he did; you must be ready to suffer, too. For remember, when your body suffers, sin loses its power." 1 Peter 4:1 (LB)

#### 4. MEET OTHER'S NEEDS EVEN WHEN MINE AREN'T MET

"When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out. Get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night." Romans 12:13 (NLT)

### WHEN GRIEVING...

#### 1. JESUS CARES ABOUT YOUR PAIN

#### 2. DON'T HANDLE IT ALONE

#### 3. FIND SOMEBODY ELSE TO HELP

#### 4. LOOK TO JESUS

## TIME WITH GOD (PRAY FOR JAPAN)

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic! This week's memory verse: "He himself bore our sins in his body on the so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds have been healed." 1 Peter 2:24

### Monday:

Read Mark 14:32-42 and Luke 22:39-46. Describe what happened to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

What emotions was Jesus feeling?

What do you learn about Jesus in this part of the Passion story?

For what situation in your life do you want (or need) to pray to God, "Your will be done not my will be done?"

*Thank God today for the example set by Jesus. Ask Him to help you daily submit your will to His.*

### Tuesday:

Read Mark 14:53-65 and John 18:12-14, 19-24. Describe what happened to Jesus when he went before Annas and Caiaphas.

How did Jesus respond to being falsely accused and mocked?

Why is it difficult not to defend yourself when people say untrue things about you?

What do you learn from Jesus' example about responding to that situation?

What specific steps can you take this week to entrust your circumstances to God? How do you think that will impact your attitude?

*Thank God today that He is with you each step of the way. Ask Him to give you a gracious and humble to His care and ask Him for wisdom to choose your words carefully.*

### Wednesday:

Read Matt. 27:11-31. Describe Pilate's attitude towards Jesus and Jesus' attitude towards Pilate.

What is Pilate's overriding concern in the trial of Jesus?

Why do you think Pilate offered the crowd a prisoner exchange?

What do you think is most difficult about standing up for what is right?

*Thank God today for the strength He gives you. Ask Him to help you grow in character. Pray that you'll have the discernment to know what is right and the courage to stand firm.*

### Thursday:

Read Mark 15:21-41 & Luke 23:33-46. How does reading this part of the Passion narratives impact you?

What did Jesus' death on the cross accomplish for you?

What did Jesus mean when He said that God had forsaken Him?

What encouragement do you draw from knowing that Jesus understands what it feels like to be lonely and isolated? How can that impact your life this week?

*Thank God today for Jesus' death on the cross for you. Thank God for His constant presence with you because of Jesus' work on the cross.*

### Friday:

Read 1 Peter 2:19, 21-25 & 4:19. What is the difference between just and unjust suffering?

In what situation can you follow Christ's example of suffering without retaliating?

Write down three things you learn from Christ's example of suffering that you can apply to your life this week.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

*Thank God today that He doesn't leave you on your own to figure out life.*

*Ask Him to help you learn from Jesus' example in suffering. Pray that you'll have an increasingly godly attitude towards your own suffering.*

### Saturday

Today please finish days you might have missed, and please pray for the services this weekend.

*Thank God today for the gift of salvation through His Son, Jesus. Ask God to help you grow in your love and faith.*