

## When Love Speaks: Seven Words from the Cross

### "THE WORD OF SUBSTITUTION"

Pastor Chuck Wysong  
Sunday, March 27, 2011

"At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" Matthew 27:45-46 (NLT)

### WHAT HAPPENED?

#### JESUS BECAME OUR SUBSTITUTE

"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2 (NIV)

### WHAT DOES IT TEACH US?

1. JESUS' PRAYER ON THE CROSS IS A **DIRECT QUOTE** FROM PSALM 22:1.

2. **GOD IS HOLY**

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Revelation 4:8 (NIV)

"Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong." Habakkuk 1:13 (NIV)

3. **SIN IS UGLY**

- **SIN ALIENATES**

"Your evil has separated you from your God and your sins have caused him to turn away from you, so he does not hear you." Isaiah 59:2 (NCV)

- **SIN DISTRESSES**

"My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear." Psalm 38:4 (NIV)

- **SIN CONDEMNS**

"God is a righteous judge and always condemns the wicked." Psalm 7:11 (TEV)

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 (NIV)

4. **THE FATHER FORSOOK JESUS BECAUSE HE BECAME SIN**

"God made him (Jesus) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him (Jesus) we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

"Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing." Galatians 3:13 (NLT)

5. **THE SON WAS FORSAKEN SO WE COULD BE FORGIVEN**

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)

### WHAT SHOULD BE MY RESPONSE?

- Turn from my sin and trust Jesus to save me. Romans 3:22 (NLT)
- I need to live in a state of gratitude... Romans 5:11 (NLT)
- When I'm tempted to sin I need to remember what my sin cost Jesus. 1 Peter 1:18
- I need to tell others the Good News. 2 Peter 3:9

## TIME WITH GOD

**Memory Verse:** "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:6 (NIV)

### Monday

Please read Matthew 6:5–8. How would you describe your prayer life? Write down the principles of prayer that Jesus gives us in these verses. How does it encourage you today to know that God knows what you need before you ask Him? In what area of your life do you specifically need to trust that right now?

*Thank God today that He has given us a way to talk with Him. Ask God to enrich your prayer life this week. Pray that you will grow in your understanding of prayer and your appreciation of it.*

### Tuesday

Please read Matthew 6:9–15. This is the classic passage on prayer: the Lord's Prayer. It may be familiar to you — perhaps too familiar. Take some extra time today to read this passage through slowly, perhaps using another version. (If you don't have another Bible translation go online to [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)) What are the key elements of this prayer? How can you apply Jesus' example of prayer to your own life?

*Pray the Lord's Prayer today, taking time to thank God for His grace, forgiveness and the hope of heaven.*

### Wednesday

Please read Matthew 26:36–45. What struggle do you face when it comes to focusing on prayer? What do you learn about Jesus in this passage? How does it impact you to know the struggle He was facing on your (all of our) behalf? In what area of your life do you need to say to God, "Your will be done."?

*Thank God today that Jesus endured the cross and the suffering that came with it for you. Pray about the area(s) of your life where you need to say, "Your will be done." Thank God for the hope of heaven that you have.*

### Thursday

Please read John 17:1–19. What example does Jesus set for us with this prayer? What did Jesus pray for His disciples? How did Jesus bring God glory on earth? How can you bring God glory today?

*Thank God today that He knows everything about you and is with you each step of the day. Pray that your life today will glorify God.*

### Friday

Please read John 17:20–26. What does Jesus pray for all believers in this passage? Why do you think Christians struggle with unity? In what relationship are you struggling to be unified? What steps can you take toward unity today? How does it encourage you today to know that Jesus prayed for you?

*Thank God today for His care and love. Pray about the relationships in your life that lack unity. Pray that God will soften your heart and use you as a unifying force. Pray that your actions and words will demonstrate to those around you that you belong to God.*

### Saturday

Please read Matthew 14:23, Mark 6:46 and Luke 6:12. While we can pray wherever we are, what are the advantages of taking time to get away by your self to pray? Take some time to think about the week ahead. Schedule a block of at least 15 minutes to get away to pray. *Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that God will use our church for His glory and that we would be a living example of all that Jesus prayed we would be!*