



As we look at the familiar scene of the crucifixion – we almost know the story too much. The story becomes almost background to the reality and the enormous meaning for all of mankind.

So, let us explore the last words of Jesus.

“Father forgive them”

At the heart of Jesus ministry has been **Forgiveness** – he came to forgive, to make clean and to restore. The cross is the epitome of Christ’s sign of forgiveness and even in his last moments he continues to forgive.

“Today you will be with me in paradise”

On the cross we hear the promise of Jesus’ **Salvation**; to all who come to him, no matter who, no matter where, and no matter when.

“Woman behold your son”

Even at the point of his death, and the end of his earthly life he shows **Affection**. The care that he lavished on people throughout his ministry he shows at the end to his mother. Even at this point his care is for others.

“Eloi Eloi lama sabachthani”

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me (deserted me) – he was human, he was divine but he on that cross he showed **Anguish**. Where are you God? How often do we call out these same words – where are you God? His anguish was real, he felt alone.

“I thirst”

He needed a drink, he was **Suffering**. The need to quench his thirst was real, the pain and all those emotions were wrapped in his suffering on that cross.

“It is finished”

So many see this as a failure, but for Christ this was the **Victory**. He had completed his mission, his ministry was finished, there was no more to do. He was born a miraculous birth, he was baptised, he was tempted, he performed miracles, he taught, he healed, he changed lives and he equipped others to continue his ministry of making himself known throughout the world. The victory was his.

“Father into your hands I commend my spirit”

His life complete, and to be commended into God’s hands, Jesus showed **Contentment**. He was fulfilled, he had done what he had to do, he was content. His mission was nearly ended.

In these seven phrases we see a mere glimpse of Jesus’ life. His love for the whole world was summed up through his words whilst on the cross. There was no anger or bitterness just love.

When you see the cross and Jesus crucifixion what do you see?

