

Last Words



CONVERSION AT THE CROSS

⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

MATTHEW 27:54

³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

MARK 15:39

⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

LUKE 23:47

³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you,

LUKE 1:3-4

**most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you
may know the certainty of the things
you have been taught.**

LUKE 1:3-4

All three gospels refer to a
centurion who stood at the
foot of the cross.

The very last person we expect
to be saved, is the very first
person to be saved.

¹⁶ “So the last will be first.”

MATTHEW 20:16

1) CLOSE OBSERVATION

³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood
there in front of Jesus.

MARK 15:39

⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, **stood at a distance, watching these things.**

LUKE 23:49

Distance may not capture
all the details.

**Jesus saw his mother there, and the
disciple whom he loved standing nearby.**

JOHN 19:26

Proximity can provide
perspective.

“Father, forgive them, for they do not
know what they are doing.”

LUKE 23:34

“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me
in paradise.”

LUKE 23:43

“Woman, here is your son.”
“Here is your mother.”

JOHN 19:26-27

“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”
(which means “My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?”).

MATTHEW 27:46 & MARK 15:34

“I am thirsty.”

JOHN 19:28

“It is finished.”

JOHN 19:30

“Father, into your hands I commit
my spirit.”

LUKE 23:46

The centurion realized that
Jesus had personally forgiven
Him of all the brutal things he
had just done and more.

¹³ Greater love has no one than this:
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

JOHN 15:13

**2) GAVE
GLORIFICATION**

⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God.

LUKE 23:47

⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, **they were terrified.**

MATTHEW 27:54

The ultimate biblical response
to God's revelation of holy-love
in the person of Jesus Christ
is praise.

How will you celebrate Easter
this year? Will you grieve like
it's a funeral or will you praise
like it's a victory?

3) BOLD EXCLAMATION & MORAL DECLARATION

“Surely he was the Son of God!”

MATTHEW 27:54

The emphasis was on
Jesus' divinity.

54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

MATTHEW 27:54

“Surely this was a righteous man.”

LUKE 23:47

The emphasis was on
Jesus' humanity.

"I find no basis for a charge
against this man."

LUKE 23:4

"I have examined him in your presence
and have found no basis for your
charges against him... he has done
nothing to deserve death."

LUKE 23:14-15

“I have found in him no grounds
for the death penalty.”

LUKE 23:22

“Such recognition of innocence by Roman officials would serve Luke’s larger purpose of portraying Jesus and his followers as law-abiding citizens who are not guilty of treason, insurrection, or misconduct.”

– CRAIG A. EVANS –

The centurion was the first
convert after the crucifixion.

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

ROMANS 10:9-10

¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

ROMANS 10:9-10

SERMON REVIEW:

- 1) CLOSE OBSERVATION**
- 2) GAVE GLORIFICATION**
- 3) BOLD EXCLAMATION &
MORAL DECLARATION**

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