



*Cries from the Cross Sermon Series*

*Sermon #7*

*'The Sixth Cry: Contentment!'*

***This past Sunday in Cries from the Cross:***

- Ever since Sunday, March 3rd, we've been looking at the statements of Jesus on the Cross.
  - Since March 3rd, we've studied His cries of forgiveness (Father forgive them for they know not what they do), salvation (today you will be with me in paradise), affection (behold your son), anguish (my God my God, why have you forsaken me?), thirst (I thirst), victory (it is finished), and lastly, contentment, which we still study tonight.
- *This past Sunday we studied what Jesus said that John recorded in John 19:30 'It is finished'*

- On Sunday I asked the question: *How does the phrase 'It is finished' show us what and how Jesus achieved victory on the Cross?*
  - **Point 1: *Redemption Work Completed.* (V. 30a)**
  - **Point 2: *Required Words Ceased.* (V. 30b)**
  - **Point 3: *Reckoning Wrath Concluded.* (V. 30c)**
- Based on Sunday's message from the 6th thing that Jesus said while on the Cross, we see that victory is possible through Jesus. But only in Him due to the victory that He achieved while on the cross.
  - Tonight, we are going to conclude our series with the last thing that is recorded that Christ said on the Cross from Luke's Gospel.

*'The Seventh Cry: Contentment!'*

*Luke 23:46*

**Sermon in a Sentence:**

*We can learn from Jesus what it means to be content even in the darkest of situations when we Follow God, Faithfully Trust, and Finish Well with whatever it is God has placed before us.*

**Intro:**

- The word **content** is defined as *'in a state of peaceful happiness.'*

- Contentment is something that many people spend a large portion of their lives seeking to find.
    - **Whether that be contentment in a spouse, job, finances, or material possessions, the chase for contentment is all around us.**
  - *In my personal experience as a Christian, I truly believe that the most content you can ever be is right in the center of God's Will.*
    - What we find in the last phrase that Jesus said from the Cross takes us to the epicenter of what He was feeling, but also shows us that He was still content.
  - ***In quite possibly the darkest experience that anyone has ever gone through, Jesus remained in the center of God's will, so that even through the harshest of circumstances, He was able to be content.***
    - Contentment is found where God is.
    - So if you're here tonight and you are aren't content, I believe by studying Luke 23:46, we can see just how we truly can be content by following Jesus example by what He said on the Cross!
- \*Read Luke 23:46\***

**Question to Ask:**

***How does Jesus' final words on the Cross that Luke records, show us that Jesus was content in His work and that we can be content in our daily lives through Christ?***

**Point 1: *Follow God. (V. 46a)***

- 'Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands' Luke 23:46a
- ***As we look at this verse of scripture tonight, I think it's important for us to not look at John 19:30 (that we studied Sunday), and think we have to pick or choose John 19:30 or Luke 23:46 as the 'final words of Jesus'.***
  - We know that the Gospel of John was written much later than Luke's Gospel. Anywhere between 70-100 A.D.
    - ***So, John added to what Luke said and but I believe we need to be clear that both of these Gospel writers compliment one another and do not contradict each other.***
      - It's not a matter of 'one or the other' but rather both take what our Lord Jesus said.
- ***The first part of Luke 23:46 shows us that Jesus followed His Father.***
  - All throughout this series I believe we've been able to see that Jesus followed the Father when it came to every step He took.



for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.’ Romans 1:16

○ **\*Word Study\***

- The word ‘loud’ here in the English comes from the Greek word **‘Megas’** *which is where we get our word ‘mega’ from, but it literally means large in size, great, numerous, and intense.*

- ***How loud is your voice for God?***

- I’m not asking you to be loud for Christ in an obnoxious way, but in a way where others know where you stand when it comes to Christ Jesus.

- ***Your voice matters when it comes to following God.***

● ***The Validity.***

- Just as Jesus addressed God as Father back in Luke 23:34 (our first message in this series), Luke notes that He does it again here in verse 46.

- ***After all that Jesus went through, from the 1st phrase on the Cross to the 7th phrase on the Cross He was still addressing God as Father.***

- By referring to God as Father, Jesus is affirming the Trinity and His relationship with His Father.

- ***As I noted during the first sermon in this series, Jesus addressed God as ‘Father’ all throughout the NT.***

- Matthew 6:9 & Matthew 26:39 are the first verses that come to mind as examples of Jesus doing this.

- Joel B. Greene said ***‘In His mind, His horrible and humiliating condition in no way jeopardizes His relationship with God,’***

- ***Just before Jesus gives His spirit to God, I believe He says Father for this last time on earth to show those around the Cross and us even today the Validity of His relationship with His Father.***

- In other words, it was not fake or put on by any means.

- When Jesus said this, we know that He followed God and that He hadn’t abandoned God even though God is the one who put Him through this immense pain for us.

- ***We can see the Jesus Followed God on the Cross through His Voice and the Validity of His relationship with His Father.***

**Point 2: Faithfully Trust. (V. 46b)**

- ‘I commit my spirit!’ Luke 23:46b
- We’ve all heard and sung the hymn ‘Trust and Obey for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus than to trust and obey’

- **While the words of this hymn are very true, how many of us live these words out in our daily lives?**
  - By the words that Jesus said here in the middle of Luke 23:46, I believe we get a clear picture that He was faithfully trusting His Father.
  - *For us to truly be content in God and in our relationship with Him, we have to be faithfully trusting Him no matter what.*
    - Jesus knew when God sent Him to earth what His ultimate mission was. He knew that He was to come and die for our sins.
      - In the middle of this He (Jesus), still had His Garden Gethsemane moment, but that didn't stop His faithfulness to God.
- One commentator says *'What a declaration of faith and act of trust! The Son of God models for us what should be our confession too. Come what may, into the hands of our loving Father, we commit ourselves to God.'*
  - I believe Jesus shows us here **I** way that we must faithfully trust Him if we want our contentment to be in God alone.

- **Pour Out Everything.**
  - **\*Word Study\***
    - The word 'Commit' that is used here is the greek word **'Paratithemi'** which occurs 19 times in the NT.
    - *This word literally means to deposit, commit to the charge of, entrust, and to commend. It can sometimes mean 'set before.'*
  - **Jesus had given everything to His Father and as a result had given everything to us.**
    - By committing His Spirit to God, He was about to voluntarily give up His life so that you and I might have life through Him.
      - *He poured everything out, including and especially, His blood.*
    - I'm not asking you today to pour out your blood to Jesus, but I am asking you to give your all to Him.
      - All of who you are in dedicated and sold out service to God.
  - **It's interesting to note that yet again on the Cross, when Jesus makes a verbal phrase, He is quoting something from the OT, another Psalm.**

- ‘Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.’ Psalms 31:5
  - *This is actually a bedtime prayer that was recited by Jewish children.*
- ***But, Jesus says it here to show that He gave His life confident and willingly, and that no one took it from Him.***
  - Because Jesus poured out His everything for us, we have the ability to pour out our all in service to Him.
- ***But because Jesus poured out His all and faithfully trusted His father, we too, can die with the same confidence and assurance that Christ did.***
  - Because of what Jesus utters here on the Cross in Luke 23:46, we do not have to have fear of death, but supreme confidence.
  - I’m reminded of what the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 1:20-23:
    - ‘as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me to live is Christ, and to

die is gain. **22** If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. **23** I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.’

- ***W.W. said ‘those who know Jesus as their Savior may die with the same confidence and assurance.’***
    - According to Mark 15:38, when Jesus said this access to God was also fully poured out so that you and I no longer have to have temples, altars, sacrifices or priests, because Jesus faithfully completed His mission to give us total access.
  - ‘And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.’ Mark 15:38
    - ***We can find our true contentment in the Lord when we Faithfully trust Him and pour out our everything to Him.***
- Point 3: *Finish Well. (V. 46c)***
- ‘And having said this he breathed his last.’ Luke 23:46c
  - ***Whether you are a Pastor, Deacon, SS Teacher, Children’s Worker, or anything serving in ministry, as a Christian we all have the duty and responsibility of Finishing Well.***

- *Just as you were probably on fire for the Lord when you first came to faith in Christ, we should also seek to finish well when it comes to our relationship with almighty God.*
  - Jesus spent 33 years on earth and these were the last words He would utter.
- He wanted to make sure that no matter what and through it all that He Finished well what He started, well.
  - ***Whether you are 33 tonight or 83 tonight, you need to remember that your contentment in Christ is contingent in your desire to finish well.***
    - No matter how long you have been a believer in Christ, it does not matter, finishing well needs to be at the top of your priority list.
- *Our text tonight says ‘And having said this he breathed his last.’*
  - There is coming a day where you will have breathed your last.
    - ***If that just so happens to be later tonight, can you confidently say that you have finished well the path that God has laid out for you?***
- Can you confidently say that you are on a solid trajectory in your walk with God right now to be

able to finish well what you started with Him in your relationship with Him, years ago?

- ***Tonight as I begin to wrap up, I think it’s important that we think about how well we would finish our race for Christ, if the race finished tonight.***

**Conclusion:**

- As we close tonight, I believe Luke 23:47-49 show us the effect that a life of contentment can have on others:
  - ‘Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!” 48 And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. 49 And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.’
  - ***The phrase in verse 48 ‘returned home beating their breasts’ was a sign of grief and repentance.***
    - I believe that some of those in attendance saw how Jesus took his fate and followed through on what God had told Him to do.
    - ***We know that Jesus really and truly finished well, and was content in the process.***
      - By allowing God to change your life tonight to live a life that you are content no matter what it is

God has in store for you, can  
have a positive impact on the  
lives of others for the Kingdom  
of God!

○ ***You can live a life of contentment tonight by:***

- ***Following God.***
- ***Faithfully Trusting.***
- ***Finishing Well.***