

Seven Last Sayings – Part 3: AFFECTION

Capturing the moment

There's something about capturing the moment. This third statement was said on the cross, not anywhere else. For John, Jesus' humanity was important and this was significant to him. And we sometimes forget that Jesus is 100% God, but He was also 100% human.

Main text: John 19:25-27

²⁵ Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" ²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

Affection amidst pain

God teaches us that if we're going to learn how to love like He does, we have to try to see other people's pain, even when we're in pain, just like when He was suffering on the cross and attending to the needs of His mother.

When we're suffering, we want to be comforted. When we're sick, we want to be cared for. It's our nature to be self-centred because we're humans. Pain makes us self-centered.

Observations

- **Jesus' final words are testament to His love, compassion, and commitment.**

Final words spoken to others seem to carry great weight. It has the sense of a last will and testament but said in the context of love.

Jesus' final words on the cross were testament to His affection, compassion, and commitment to the well-being of His followers. They serve as a timeless reminder of the importance of caring for one another.

- **Jesus stressed the importance of community and being connected.**

In the midst of His excruciating physical suffering and grief, Jesus demonstrates an incredible selflessness, ensuring that His mother would be cared for in His absence. Jesus is thinking of His family. This act of entrusting relationships to the care of others underscores the importance of affection in the context of community and family bonds in our Christian walk. He is thinking of His mother, He is thinking of His friends.

- **Despite His own pain, Jesus saw the pain of others.**

Here is Jesus, suffering the worst death imaginable, paying the penalty of hell for you and for me. And in the midst of His sufferings, Jesus' love transcended His pain. In His pain He wasn't selfish and self-pitying but reached out to meet the needs of those who were close to Him.

- **Jesus doesn't just care about your eternity, He also cares about your present reality.**

It had been so easy to neglect everybody in front of Him and focus on the task at hand but He finds it within His own soul to look at His mum. He still had enough love and grace within Himself to make sure that His mum was going to be looked after and **He is caring for you too!**

- **Jesus doesn't just care about the crowd, He cares about you as an individual.**

In the midst of the crowd, Jesus noticed the women that stood close to Him, and He noticed His mum and He noticed John. He noticed these individuals. While the crowds are important to Jesus so are the individuals. Jesus spent all of His ministry comforting, and healing, and taking care of, and feeding and interacting with individuals despite the fact that the crowds were constantly pressing in on Him, trying to get to Him. He continues this in His death. Example: Woman with the issue of blood

- **Jesus is not distant.**

Jesus, in His dying moments, was not distant, He was not too preoccupied with the fulfillment of the great work He had been given to do. He was not too absorbed in His suffering and sacrifice to care for His mother personally in this hour.

“From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.” (John 19:27)

What does this mean to us?

This means that the disciple became Jesus' representative. He did what Jesus asked him to do and

therefore he became the representative of Jesus. This is our job too!

1 Corinthians 10:24 (NCV) – “*Do not look out only for yourselves. Look out for the good of others also.*”

Luke 10:33 (NLT) – “*Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.*”

As Christians, it is our job to be a representation of Jesus on earth. This is what it means to be a follower of Christ – to love others the way Jesus loves and care for them. And I think we have an incredible opportunity to do that in this broken world.

How do we become a representation of Jesus?

- By not just caring about people’s eternity but to also care about their present reality and to do our best to help the people we can

“Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone.” Andy Stanley

Action points

- For those who have not yet received Jesus,
EMBRACE JESUS AND THE CARE HE HAS FOR YOU!

If you have never embraced Jesus as your Saviour, you need to do that. We believe as a church that when Jesus is suffering this incredible thing on the cross, He is doing it so that your sins might be forgiven and all you have to do to have your sins forgiven is to look at God and say, “*God I believe that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins and*

because I believe that I am choosing to accept Your gift of forgiveness and salvation and I am going to give You my life.”

- For those who believe Jesus, BE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF JESUS!

You need to be the rocks that this world needs. You need to be the representatives of Jesus because as you recognise that He cares for you, it allows you to care for others in a new and better way. It allows for you to be solid in the midst of a world that is shifting and struggling.

Things to ponder

God cares about you and He cares about you deeply!

God intimately knows His people and their needs. David wrote in Psalm 139:1-4, *“O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.”*

David concluded in Psalm 139:17-18, *“How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand.”*

Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message), *“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”*

Although Jesus was exhausted and in horrible pain, His love of others continue to supersede anything He was going through as He endured the torture of His crucifixion.

The all powerful, all knowing, everywhere present God of the universe loves you, cares about you and knows what you need!

He does not only care about your eternity but He also cares about your present reality.