

All These Sayings

“And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, He said unto His disciples” (Matt. 26:1).

Years ago my family and I traveled together to many of the church meetings. Predictably, our middle daughter, Angela, would want to visit with some other family on Sunday afternoon. Because she was prone to talk a lot, and would even reveal our family secrets, I would slip around behind her and say to the husband or wife in the family, “Now, don’t believe everything that Angela says!”

Let me admit that while I was sort of joking, I was really hoping that they would interrupt the conversations. I must admit, however, that while she often gave out information that we would rather guard, because she was so observing, we always learned a lot about that family and the church family when she returned to our motel room after the evening service. She always brought me new sermon material (I’m kidding again!).

While I advised the folks not to believe everything Angela said, I would remind all of us that we can believe everything Jesus said. It is true that the words of the text, “All these sayings,” were not spoken in reference to Christ’s death on the cross. I have chosen to use the phrase, however, to underline the conclusive message of the seven sayings of the Savior. From the pulpit of the cross, we can believe everything that is revealed about His heart for sinners.

All these sayings demonstrate the affection that Jesus exhibited for sinners! The Savior so loved us that as He hung on the cross, He prayed, “Father, forgive them; for they know what they do” (Luke 23:34). He not only prayed for sinners, but He affectionately heard the prayer of a repentant soul. When the thief cried, “Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom,” Jesus said, “To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise” (Luke 23:42-43).

All these sayings define the rejection that Jesus endured for sinners! Man’s utter rejection of Christ brought Him great grief and sorrow. In His death, not only was He separated from His earthly mother, Mary, and his loving disciple, John, (see John 19:26-27), but He was also separated from His Father’s presence. Thus, “at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice . . . My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me” (Mark 15:34).

All these sayings declare the connections that Jesus established for sinners! Although our Mediator was forsaken by His Father, He united Old Testament prophecies with New Testament principles. Experiencing the thirst of death and finishing the work which He came to do, He joined His people to His Father. Then, with redemption and reconciliation completed, He connected us to the eternal world, saying, “Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit” (Luke 23:46).