

## **WORDS OF MERCY: “FATHER, FORGIVE THEM”**

Luke 23:24

The final words of someone’s life can be meaningful and powerful. For example, it was just before they died that Joshua called for courage, Deborah prayed for justice, Hannah sang with gratitude, and Stephen invited repentance. It was at the end of their respective ministries that Peter said “guard the church,” Paul said, “preach the word,” and John said, “Come Lord Jesus.” Final words like these can make a big impact. And if that’s true of some of God’s *people*, how much more is that true of God’s *Son*? Considered carefully and prayerfully, his laboured words uttered from the cross are those of sympathy and tranquility, of frailty and misery, of prophecy and destiny, and of certainty and victory. They’re meaningful, powerful, and potentially transformational. Through them we encounter the Lord Jesus Christ, majestically adorned in unmatched courage and love, beauty and power.

SIN: It’s worse than we think

23:33–38

Isa. 64:6; Jer. 17:9

Rom. 3:10, 23; Eph 2:1

FORGIVENESS: It’s better than we know

23:34

John 1:29; Rom. 6:23

Gal. 3:13; Eph. 2:4

1 Pet. 1:19; 2:24

## WORDS AROUND THE CROSS

February–April 2025

February 23	“Words of Mercy: ‘Father, Forgive Them’”	Luke 23:34
March 9	“Words of Destiny: ‘You Shall Be With Me’”	Luke 23:43
March 16	“Words of Sympathy: ‘Behold, Your Son’”	John 19:26–27
March 23	“Words of Misery: ‘Why Have You Forsaken Me?’”	Matthew 27:46
March 30	“Words of Frailty: ‘I Am Thirsty’”	John 19:28
April 6	“Words of Tranquility: ‘I Commit My Spirit’”	Luke 23:46
April 11*	“Words of Prophecy: ‘Hosanna in the Highest!’”	Mark 11:1–11
April 18†	“Words of Certainty: ‘It is Finished!’”	John 19:30
April 20‡	“Words of Victory: ‘He has Risen!’”	Luke 24:1–12

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\* Palm Sunday

† Good Friday

‡ Easter Sunday