

Good Friday Devotional

By Bryan Gilde

Introduction Discussion

What is the difference between the things we say OUT LOUD compared to the things we “say” (or think) to ourselves? When was a time in your life when you prayed OUT LOUD to God instead of just praying silently?

While the thoughts of our hearts do contain our true self (which is always known by God), the words of our mouths reveal and expose our hearts to others and even ourselves.

Read OUT LOUD: John 19:16-30

Discussion

As Jesus was dying on the cross for six hours, do you think He knew how long it would take for him to die?

What would you be thinking if you were on a cross dying?

What would it be like to die on a cross in front of a crowd of people, including your best friends and parents?

The good news is we do know what Jesus was thinking when we read the seven sentences he spoke from the cross as He was dying.

Read OUT LOUD: Matthew 27:45-56

Read each of these sentences spoken while Jesus was on the cross (they are not in chronological order)

(1) “My God my God why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46)

This reveals the most important thing Jesus was thinking and feeling bc it shows us his motive for going to the cross. He was not primarily thinking about his own wellbeing (he did do this in the garden when he asked the Father if there was another way). He was especially thinking about absorbing the wrath of God for the sins of God’s people.

I have written down in my journal this week the following words in large RED lettering taking up an entire page: “The Lord has called me by name, and talks with me.” That’s the reason Jesus went to the cross, stayed on the cross for six hours, and then came back to life on Easter morning. He went to the cross to pay for my debt, as the song written by Matt Papa and lately sang by Keith and Kristen Getty says



My sins they are many, but his mercy is more



Optional Reading OUT LOUD: Read Psalm 22 two verses at a time *out loud* to see all that Jesus was thinking and feeling as he quoted the first line to this psalm.

(2) [to Mary:] “Woman, behold your son!” [to John:] “Behold, your mother!” (John 19:26-27)

We see here Jesus caring for his mother, Mary, by putting John in charge of his mother’s needs. Jesus had a real family just like you and me. We should always follow Jesus’ example by caring for others—especially those of our own family.

(3) “I thirst.” (John 19:28)

Jesus suffered in his flesh, like all humans suffer in their flesh. Jesus would have fallen down and skinned his knee (even though he healed others), gotten physically sick (even though he healed many), and he even died a real death (even though he raised himself back from the dead).

Hebrews reminds us that in his humanity Jesus identified with man: “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses [like death], but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet was without sin.” (Hebrews 5:15).

(4) “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)

Jesus was thinking about the sins of all of humanity. He was offering himself up to satisfy the wrath of the Father for the sins of many. These *many* include people from all languages, ethnicities, and people groups. In the midst of this, Jesus was mindful of the people in his presence at that moment. The call to minister to those in front of us in the moment is paramount in an age of digital connectivity. Enjoy this time of family devotions with real people to fellowship with today.

(5) “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Bringing the circle of *those in his immediate presence in the moment* tighter, are two people a few feet away whom he shares the biting pain of death by hanging on a cross. Jesus’ offer of forgiveness to the masses was accepted by the one thief on his side. Jesus did not ignore the one man among the many and engaged him in conversation. Have you responded to Jesus’ words? Share your response to the first time (or recently) you sincerely responded to Jesus’ words?

(6) “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

The loving father just poured out all the wrath of sinners on his own Son, reminding us of Abraham’s call to sacrifice his only son in Genesis 22. After this profound six-hour experience, Jesus continued to call out to the Father. Do you see your suffering as a call to seek God as Jesus did? Jesus knew God was good and that there is more to life than just what we see. We must live by faith in God and *know (with a sure trusting faith)* that after death, we are with the Lord.

Living life without considering God would be like driving your car around town thinking you will never run out of gas. Living life without considering about life after death, is foolish. Yet, how many of us have ever run out of gas? Maybe not in your car, but what about in your lawnmower? We know better than to run out of gas, just like we know better than to live life without considering God. (Tim Keller *The Reason for God*, 147)

(7) “It is finished” (John 19:30)

Jesus has fully paid for all your sins!

All our past sins and all our future sins? “PAID IN FULL!”

Conclusion We started out talking about the difference in thinking words and saying words OUT LOUD.

Ponder Romans 10:9

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

Prayer and Worship in Song

Spend some time praying for each other and the needs of those around you.

Sing some worship songs your family is familiar with or feel free to pull up a worship song such as

[His Mercy is More](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1GiZL60c80) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1GiZL60c80>