



## WORDS THREE AND FOUR

We continue this week the last statements of Christ from the Cross.

The third was:

### **Woman, behold thy son** (John 19:26)

A more complete description of this is below.

*Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, . . ."* John 19:25-28



As Jesus hung, dying on the cross, he had several things He had to do. He had to pronounce forgiveness and promise a place in Paradise. The last act was with respect to Mary. The Roman church deifies Mary, which is wrong. We tend to ignore her, which is also wrong. Jesus did not. Paul wrote, *But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

I Timothy 5:8

In the first century, widows like Mary received no Social Security checks nor any Medicare. Again, Paul wrote, *Honor widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.*

I Timothy 5:3-4

Jesus made sure that Mary would be "adopted" into John's family so she would be cared for. Jesus' last act toward others was that of compassion and provision.

### **My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?** (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)

The fourth statement of Christ is, perhaps, the most devastating of all. Christ was first able to forgive, to promise a place in Paradise, and to provide provision. Having done this, He could do no more. He was powerless. He was powerless because God forsook Him! Thus Jesus' words "Why hast Thou forsaken me?" In saying this, Jesus fulfilled the words of the Psalmist, *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?* Psalm 22:1

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm is one of the most remarkable Psalms in the Bible. It so graphically describes the death of Christ on the cross, to the last detail. It could only have been by one who was writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

These words from the cross are preceded with the words of the people, *"He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"*

Matthew 27:42-43

First, they said, *"He saved others; Himself He cannot save."* The reason He could not save Himself, why God forsook Him, was because *"He saved others."* In order to save you from your sins, He had to bear them. *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

II Corinthians 5:21

It was essential that He be forsaken by the Father. But the people also said, *"He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him."* They said "Let God deliver Him. God did deliver Him

From that moment until some point of time on Easter Sunday, when He arose from the dead, Christ was separated from the Father (and Spirit).

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