

Many say stupid things; Jesus' words have meaning

We have all heard people say some funny things. Perhaps you heard some statements even today that made you scratch your head and wonder.

You know, statements like "This room sure is big for how big it is." How about, "Love is blind. Marriage is the eye-opener." Maybe, "My biggest problem is that I believe almost everything that I tell myself."

I like this one: "I used to have a photographic memory, but it was never developed."

Oh, the things people say! I am just glad we have never made any statements like that.

On this Good Friday, I want us to take a journey back in time and hear seven last statements that have stood out throughout time. Let's go back to that hill where Christ was crucified and ponder what He said.



steve rains

● moments from calvary

Every time Jesus spoke, people knew there was meaning and power in His words. They were words that you could count on. Those seven last phrases offer us seven life principles to live by.

First we learn that Jesus lived a life of forgiveness. Luke 23:34 says, "Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'"

He died forgiving the sins of those who sinned against Him. That tells me this: man's greatest need is to be

Some of them were patriots who hoped to free their people. They died for a cause they believed in, but what are their names? Why does history only remember the name of this Jesus? I want to submit it is because we all long for forgiveness.

Christ lived a life with no enemies. He knew people wouldn't be excited about His mission, but He didn't let it bother Him. I learn this from His life and that statement — you can't determine how people feel about you, but you can determine

how you feel about them. Friend, don't live your life having enemies, because you will lose.

Secondly, Christ died reaching out to someone going to hell. You can read about it in Matthew 27:38-44. The Lord Jesus Christ loves people. You learn more about this passion that God has for people when you read Luke 15. It is good stuff. Sit down and read it and know that God is crazy for you and goes to great lengths to reach us.

Next, Christ died expressing selfless love (John 10:26-27). As Jesus hung on the cross for all of humanity, He was making sure the people close to Him were taken care of.

Don't forget to see the needs around you. Slow down and enter into life with people and feel their pain. One wise person said, "Don't

try to fix someone's pain until you feel their pain."

Here is another life lesson from Christ's last words — Sin is serious; it separates. Matthew 27:46: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" Sin is nasty and we can't justify it. We need a remedy and that is Christ.

There are a few more statements, and this one is tough for some. We must depend on others. Jesus said, "I thirst" (John 19:28).

You can't truly live life without others, especially the Christian life. We have to let people speak into our life. You have to learn to be vulnerable and dependent on others. It is OK to be that way.

Christ died completing the work He came to do. John 19:30 says, "When He had received the drink, Jesus said,

'It is finished.' With that He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."

He accomplished God's plan for his life. By that proclamation, He was declaring the way to the Father was done.

Finally, Christ died entrusting Himself to God. He said, "Into your hands I commit my spirit (Luke 23:46)."

He lived putting His trust in God and in His promises. Quit putting your trust in the temporal. Stop treating the temporal like it is eternal and the eternal like the temporal.

Have a blessed Easter, and I hope you take the time to go to church Sunday.

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at calvarygospel.net or e-mail Rains at calvarycolumn@st-tel.net.

Hospice to hold training April 14 and 21 for new volunteers

Hospice Services Inc. is planning training to prepare volunteers to help care for the terminally ill. Tasks volunteers can help with include shopping for groceries, housekeeping, baby sitting, mowing the yard, bringing in meals, holding a hand and being a hearing ear.

Tentative dates for the training are Saturdays, April 14 and 21. Call Hospice Services' main office in Phillipsburg (800) 315-5122.

Some of the reasons Hospice Services volunteers say they like what they do include: intellectually and emotionally fulfilling, laughter shared, new friendships established, feeling of accomplishment, greater appreciation for life and affiliation with a dynamic service organization.

As a hospice volunteer, you will be given choices as to how much and what types of things you want to do. You will be part of a team and will ease the role of the other team mem-

bers. The assistance of a volunteer lightens the load for healthcare professionals.

A common misconception is that only women are needed as direct care volunteers, said Julia Schemper, administrative assistant for Hospice Services. The problem, she said, is that not all patients served by Hospice Services are women. The male patients love association with other men, she said, and look forward to have a male companion.

All direct care volunteers receive extensive training to ensure they feel comfortable with their tasks, Schemper said. It's important that volunteers understand the history of hospice and are aware of the specific ways Hospice Services serves the community.

Areas covered in the training include the philosophy of hospice care, patients and terminal illness, psycho-social aspects of terminal

illness, basic information about grief and loss and communication skills.

A desire to help and a little time to spare are all you need to volunteer,

Schemper said, and it can be a way to get out of the house for someone who is retired or for other reasons doesn't work. Most of the common everyday tasks need to be done dur-

ing business hours, she said.

Becoming a Hospice Services volunteer is a great way to give back to the community, Schemper said. "We all want the best care of our

loved ones when they are sick," she said, "but when someone we love is terminally ill, it's hard to go it alone. The good news is, they don't have to go through this alone."

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