

Lesson Six: Cross Words

Unlock with Questions: 10:05-10:20; 6:35-6:50

1. What draws you to Jesus?
2. What is something crazy you have done for someone you love? (Stories please.)
3. If you had the opportunity to know when you were going to die, what would your last words be to your friends?
4. If you had the opportunity to know when you were going to die, what would your last words be to your enemies?
5. What does the cross mean to you? What is the significance of the cross to you?

Unlock New Thoughts: 10:20-10:50; 6:50-7:20

Jesus said seven things from the cross, over half of which are referenced in John's gospel.

WHAT JESUS SAID ON THE CROSS

(Not necessarily in order)

He said	To whom	Reference
Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing. (Such deep cost, such deep pain for both of them!)	Directly to God	Luke 23:34
Woman, behold your son; man, behold your mother.	John the Apostle	John 19:26,27
Truly, I tell you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.	The thief on the cross beside Him	Luke 23:40-43; Matthew 27:44
"Eli, Eli, lama sabacthani?" which means "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"	God	Mark 15:34, Matthew 27:46
I am thirsty.	Those nearby.	John 19:28 and Mark 15:36
It is finished!	Everyone, seen and unseen!	John 19:30
Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit. (loud voice)	Father God	John 19:30 with Mark 15:37, Luke 23:46 (loud cry)

Forgiveness

"He Himself bore our sins in His body upon the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; 'by His wounds you are healed'" (1 Peter 2:24). Peter, the author, knew about forgiveness directly from the nail-scarred hands of Jesus. Forgiveness is costly; for Jesus, it cost Him His life; for us, we die daily as we

choose to forgive those who have wounded us. May we choose, like Jesus, to return harm with *agape* love.

Mother Mary

Jesus, as the eldest, was culturally charged with the care of His mother. He took care of her by appointing John as her guardian. His words are tender: “**Woman, behold your son; man, behold your mother.**” For the rest of her life, Mother Mary was the charge of John, and history records his care of her.

Paradise

One of Satan’s most cruel soul-daggers is **mockery**. Even the thieves on the cross joined in with the religious leaders’ mockery of Jesus. They unknowingly spewed exact quotes from Psalm 22:7,8:

All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. “He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

“In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him” (Matthew 27:44). “One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: ‘Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’” (Luke 23:39). No sympathy, no kindness, no solace.

But there was a shift: one of the thieves reconsidered. He had heard about Jesus, for he knew his reputation. The manner of Jesus’ suffering won his hard heart, and as his soul softened, he rebuked the other criminal:

“Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this Man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise” (Luke 23:40-43).

As these men were making oxygen choices to live, Jesus inhaled and exhaled words of life. No wonder He had refused the sedative when He began the process of crucifixion: Jesus still had eternal work to do; He needed to stay sharp and alert for the salvation of this man’s soul.

Do you see that this man was never “good enough” for God, and his works did not save him? He had no time to accumulate good deeds; he simply grabbed onto Jesus, recognized Him for who He was, and put his trust in Him. Being a

good person doesn't get you to paradise; a change of heart and trusting in Jesus does.

Interesting: Time warps after death. We know Jesus died and was buried; that He descended into hell; that He rose on Sunday morning, the "third day." Yet He said "today" and "with Me" to the criminal. After death, when we exit time and enter God's realm of reality, we are with Him as we cannot now comprehend. I think we will exist outside of time, which is a created thing, and be at peace in eternity. This to me is mystery, but is fact. I cannot adequately explain it; God knows. But He has said we will be with Him, and as the criminal believes, so do I.

Finally, there is an ideal of Paradise that is met here: to endlessly, openly be with Jesus for eternity is to experience paradise. I can't wait. How about you? Are you settled with God, sure that you too will be with Him for eternity? Do you have friends and family that you are praying will soften their hearts to the claims of Christ? Me too. Let's pray, thanking God for His provision of Heaven and praying for our friends, our enemies, our persecutors, and our families to enter the Kingdom of God.

Thirsty

John 19:28-31 chronicles, "Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.' A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant [see Psalm 51:7! "Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow"], and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." This is about more than dehydration; this is about the scripture! Psalm 69:21 prophesies, "They ... gave me vinegar for my thirst." Jesus is attentive to every jot and tittle, obedient in every detail.

During His ministry, Jesus called people to Himself to receive living water, to get their unquenchable thirst for true life completely satisfied (see John 4:13,14; John 7:37-39; Revelation 7:16, 21:6, and 22:17). In the psalms, thirsty worshipers called to God (Psalm 42:2, 63:1, 107:9, 143:6), noting their own landscapes as illustrations of their inner longings. The psalmist says it well: "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water" (Psalm 63:1). The prophets also were quick to take the sign of physical thirst to a deeper level, showing spiritual thirst. Amos writes, "The days are coming when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord" (Amos 8:11). Isaiah issues a prophetic call in 55:1, referring to the Messiah: "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!"

At times in life, there is nothing you have that can buy what you need; only God can supply it. Jesus offered us **His** life as **true** life; are you thirsty for Him? He can and will satisfy your soul.

It is Finished! Into Your hands I commit My spirit.

When Jesus finished His work on the cross, He cried out in triumph, quite a difficult thing to do in oxygen-thieving crucifixion. He committed His soul to His Father, cried out in victory, and gave up His spirit. His work on the cross was done! He had drunk the cup of the Father's wrath, drained every drop. Because of His finished work on the cross, all who put their faith in Jesus will live (see 1 Corinthians 15:22). Does this include you? Will you take the finished work of Jesus personally by thanking Him for enduring this for you? Will you honor Him and His cross by making Him your Lord?

"It is finished" means ...

Strong's Concordance

teleó: to bring to an end, complete, fulfill

Original Word: τελέω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: teleó

Phonetic Spelling: (tel-eh'-o)

Short Definition: I end, accomplish, pay

Definition: (a) I end, finish, (b) I fulfill, accomplish, (c) I pay.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: 5055 *teléō* (from 5056 *télos*, "consummation, completion") – properly, to complete (consummate)

[This root (*tel-*) means "reaching the *end* (*aim*)."

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

finish, accomplish

From **telos**; to end, i.e. Complete, execute, conclude -- accomplish, make an end, expire, fill up, finish, go over, pay, perform.

- You don't have to worry any more about being "good enough"; that is settled. God's requirements were met in Jesus' sacrifice. You do need to pursue holiness and the heart of God. In Jesus, it is finished!
- The spiritual war is won; Jesus is the victor. There will still be battles and skirmishes here, but all of the spirit world recognizes that Jesus is Lord!
- You never have to doubt God's love again, ever. What else could He possibly do to communicate to you that He loves you?
- Your soul is safe with Jesus. He conquered everything, even death itself.

- You don't have to fear death anymore; you have the privilege of living life now, and eternally. Start today!
- Every sin you've committed has been accounted for and paid for through Jesus' death the cross. You will not surprise God with your sin; He knows it all, and has paid for it all. So engage Him with your love and loyalty.
- Jesus extends an offer of love to you: He has done everything to bring you into the Presence of the Father, to allow you to be filled with the Holy Spirit. There is nothing in your way except yourself. Are you willing to take Jesus' offer of love?
- Everything Jesus said He would do is done. You can trust Him. He's not teasing or foolish; He is Lord of all!

Unlock the Scriptures: 10:50-11:15; 7:20-7:45

Fill in the chart above using the clues given. The crucifixion is toward the end of each gospel.

Read through prophetic chapters Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22, making note what was fulfilled in the death of Jesus. If you can, match the New Testament scripture to the Old Testament prophecy.

Isaiah 53:2	
53:3	
53:4	
53:5	
53:6	
53:7	
53:8	
53:9	
53:10	
53:11	
53:12	
Psalm 22:1	My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? (alerted people to know what to read)
22:6	
22:7,8	
22:14	
22:15	
22:16	
22:17	
22:18	
22:19-31	What is the tone of the psalm as it ends? what does that mean for Jesus and us?

Lock It In: 11:15-11:25; 7:45-7:55

The story of Mary, John 20:10-18

The story of Thomas, John 20:24-29: Loyal and literal in the SEEN, confused and doubtful in the UNSEEN.

Lock It Down: 11:25-11:30; 7:55-8:00

Take Jesus' sacrificial love personally. He did this for you, for me. Write a response to Him.

"The story of _____," fill in your name.

Bonus Features:

Take the introductory questions and ask them, taking into consideration the person you're asking.