

Christ Community Covenant Church
Famous Last Words: Jesus – ‘I am coming soon!’
Title: Maranatha!
Pastor Dave Scherrer – August 31, 2014

Song – *That where I am*

Content Block 1: John 16:33 – Words of Comfort

We are talking about famous last words. This is the last of our series and we have seen that these last words really do point us to Christ. Now we reach the famous last words of Christ. This is hard as all the words of my Savior are famous to me. His every word drips like honey with the sweet taste of truth. But I have to agree – there is something about last words that makes a person stop and listen a bit more careful. Take for instance the last evening Jesus spent together with his closest disciples, in the upper room celebrating the Seder meal, the Passover. Throughout his conversation with the disciples that evening he spoke words of comfort. He even promised the Comforter would come. We just sang some of those words; “I am going to prepare a place for you, where there are many rooms,” he said. And he said that He would come back for us someday soon, but they couldn’t understand. Even when He said clearly, “I am going away,” the disciples were so confused and full of themselves.

He spoke such words of comfort. The words he said were so inspiring. From that terrible night forward to today the deeds and words of the upper room have inspired artwork, music and poetry.



Everyone was giddy with excitement. The whole city was mad for Jesus. When they came into Jerusalem the people went crazy, yelling his name, shouting hosanna. Then Jesus went to work teaching, performing miracles – the man healed who was blind from birth, cleansing the temple of the money changers. And then at Bethany Jesus called into eternity and Lazarus stepped out of the tomb. The air was thick with excitement. That was what made his words so hard to hear. The upper room account has Jesus sounding so sad; excitement is the furthest emotion from Jesus. In fact his last words were words of comfort, as though the disciples were sad and grieving. Everything Jesus did and said that evening had the weight of eternity hanging on it. Washing the disciples feet, rites of the last supper meal, the establishing of the ceremony of communion, even the announcement that someone would betray him. It all had eternal meaning. These were important last words!

You see, I noted that the disciples were upbeat, and even giddy with power, wondering who would be next in command. Christ was sad but the disciples were clueless and the disciples were happy and filled with anticipation and Christ was consoling them as though he knew something they did not know. First he set the disciples at ease by calling them his friends:

John 15:15

¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

¹⁶ I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.

He said (**John 16:20**)

²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

It was as if He knew. But how could He know? How could he know about the terrible turn of events that had not yet happened but would happen in just hours? But he did. He could have been thinking of himself. He should have run. But instead He prayed for us for an hour or more, maybe much more. He spoke comfort into their lives even before the disciples knew to be scared. What a treasure to have him say, (**John 16:33**)

³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Take heart Christian, Jesus said it, and it is of course true – your world may be one trial after another. Your Savior understands and he has defeated your worst enemy. Take heart Christian! If God is for you who could be against you! If you abide in Him He will abide in you. And nothing can ever take that away from you. Take heart! You are forgiven because he was forsaken. We are accepted because he was condemned. If God is for you who could be against you! His Spirit is within us because he died and rose again. Take heart Christian and Sing!

Song: *You are my King*

Content Block 2: Luke 23:44-46: Words of Agony and Forgiveness

But those words I spoke of a moment ago, they were not his real last words. No they took him outside of town to Golgotha, the place of the skull and they killed the Son of God. While the disciples stood and watched they nailed him to a cross and they murdered him.

He was in such pain. That day was terrible in every way. The agony of the scourging. It is better to die than to face the execution of the Roman scourge. They whipped him 39 times because 40 was considered lethal. And they didn't want to kill him just yet. Then the beatings and the thorns. But worse

yet, the mocking and the ridicule. His nakedness. Abandoned, betrayed by all, except his mom. He had to watch as his mother wept for him. The most terrible agony and torment.

About 3 that afternoon, in the fulfillment of the holy scriptures of Psalm 22, he shouted, though his shout was little more than a whisper, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Such torment. We can scarcely speak of it. Jesus, one with the Father and the Spirit from before there was time, separated and punished on our behalf. The disciples should have understood but they didn't until later on the road to Emmaus, Christ reminded them;

Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short that it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

But we remember; *"God made him who knew no sin to be made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ."* We cannot know the agony of the cross. Physical pain, public disgrace, abandoned by friends and now His Father. O the horror of it. The Sinless one died our death. The Innocent one took our guilty place before the judgment throne of a Righteous God.

And His last words? "Father forgive them for they know not what they do".

Forgiveness. Can you believe it? It's as if I can still hear those words through the swollen and broken lips. "Forgive them" he said. Then, "It is finished. Father into your hands I commit my spirit."

Words of comfort in the evening, final words of forgiveness delivered from the agony of the cross on that dark and sad Friday afternoon. Friend, have you said yes to the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ, God's only Son? Have you? It is not too late. Simply believe what the criminal believed that was crucified next to Jesus. Say: "Have mercy on me O God. I believe Your Son paid the debt I owe. I believe that he died so that I could live. I accept His love and gift of life based on His life again. Save me Father to the glory of the Son."

Song: *Above all*

Content Block 3: Revelation 22:16-21 Words of Victory and Warning

But anyone who knows this story also knows that the words on the cross were not the last words of Christ. No, His last words ever uttered were to John the Apostle, when he found himself before the Throne of the King of kings. I don't know if it was a vision or if indeed he was transported in fact to Heaven, but there was never a more real event in his life I am sure. It was so true and so real that words from this world, no matter the language, cannot describe the glory and grandeur of that place and that King!

Look at this passage with me. These are the last words of Jesus from Rev. 21:16-20:

¹⁶ 'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.'¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

At once, words of warning and also words of victory. Look at what he is offering . . . Come he said, and be filled. Come and be satisfied. Come it is all free! Not cheap, just free. And pray with me. Maranatha! Say it with me Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus.

Maranatha Come Lord Jesus

Come. A love like this the world has never known. Jesus Son of God!

Song: Jesus Son of God