

SEVEN FINAL WORDS
Cries from the Cross of Christ
Gethsemane to Tomb in Gospels
Part 3: A Cry for Provision (Jn. 19:18-27)

INTRO: We return to the cross, the hinge point of human history. For six hours Jesus slowly and painfully died on a cross. Pic of the Skull . . . While dying He utters seven cries. The first three between 9-noon, while the sun shines. Cry 1 about forgiveness. Cry 2 applied that forgiveness to salvation. Both from Luke 23. We'll return to Lk. 23 for final cry. But we find the third cry in John's Gospel, which records three of the final cries – all in John 19. Read Jn. 19:18-27 . . . vv. 26-27.

CONTEXT: Just prior to those words of provision, let's look at the garments (v. 23). *Jewish custom* regarding clothing (image): There were usually five pieces of clothing worn by a man: headpiece (turban), sandals for feet, outer robe ankle length, and girdle belt holding robe to body, and undergarment (chiton) that was knee length (usually made by mother and presented at 12). *Roman Custom* regarding crucifixion (image): Five military men were assigned cross detail. One, usually a centurion, was in charge. The other four circled the cross until death. These took four pieces of victim's clothes (clothes). They rolled dice for the fifth (Psa. 22:18).

PARTICIPANTS: In addition to the soldiers and the spectators, who was there? (vv. 25-27). Jesus' mother, His aunt (Mary, wife to Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. Who has watched a loved one die? Now mentioned when soldier touched the tunic, they touched her heart. Standing next to her as they watched Jesus die was the Apostle John, the beloved disciple, who had earlier deserted with other disciples. He now courageously returns. Several who loved Jesus were there. Now, a word of provision for His mother. As in cries 1 & 2, Jesus focus is on others. The words in this third cry tell us three things:

I. THIS CRY CLARIFIES MARY'S RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS

- A. *What He Called Her* (v. 26 "woman"). He refers to her, not as Mother, but as "Woman". In that culture it was a term of dignity and respect, like, "Lady." Now, not about their mother-son relationship, but sinner-savior relationship. Mary, like all of us, was a sinner in need of forgiveness and salvation.
- B. *What He Did for Her* – made provision
- C. *Mariolatry* – Mary, as the earthly mother of Jesus, is given much honor by the RCC. Catholics assert that Mary: (1) is the "Mother of God" (431); (2) her virginity perpetual continued after the birth of Jesus and

she never had any more children; (3) she was conceived w/o original sin and lived a sinless life (Immaculate Conception – declared 1854 Pius IX); (4) at death ascended to heaven body and soul (Assumption – declared 1950 Pius XII), where she reigns as "Queen of Heaven" and earth; (5) is Co-Redeemer (she cooperated with God in our redemption because she willingly offered Jesus to God to die for us); and (6) is mediatrix between God and man. Since Jesus came through Mary to us, we must go through her to Him. RCs give Mary the place and honor that only belongs to Christ Himself. Frankly, little is said in the Bible about Mary. Scripture shows no evidence that the Apostles gave her special honor. Nowhere does it say she was venerated or prayed to by others. Peter, Paul, John, James do not even mention her in their epistles. Luke 1:26-38 no mention of sinlessness and Mary even gave a sin offering for herself (Lk. 2:22-24). She knew she needed a Savior (Lk. 1:47). Scripture is clear that Jesus was her firstborn and she had other children (Lk. 2:7; Matt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3). Mary, like all of us, needed forgiveness and salvation.

II. THIS CRY EXEMPLIFIES JESUS COMPASSION

- A. *John the Defector*. He had fled (Matt. 26:56) He repents and returns (Mk. 14:50).
- B. *John the Provider*. Why John? Jesus had four brothers and two sisters (Matt. 13:53-58; Jn. 7:1-5; Mk. 6:3). None of His siblings believed until after His resurrection (Acts 1:14). Jesus' words to John were about compassion, forgiveness, and restoration. Jesus gave Him another chance and awesome high-trust responsibility. John faithfully fulfilled this until Mary died years later in Ephesus.

III. THIS CRY MAGNIFIES THREE TRUTHS

- A. *Respect your parents*. Provide for them as needed. Love provides. Honor your father and mother. My story . . . Linda's . . .
- B. *Spiritual bonds are often stronger than natural bonds*. Jesus was closer to John (and other disciples and women) than to His own siblings – not unusual (MY STORY . . .). Mk. 10:28-30.
- C. *Grace is available to all who fail, which is all of us*. This same John penned 1 John 1:9 . . . and about 25% of the NT!

CONC: The first three cries are done. Noon or later now. Next three cries occur between noon-3:00. Next Cry of Desertion.