

Seventh Word - *Who Are You Trusting?*

In the story from Matthew 21:1-11, the disciples had no clue what this simple task of getting a donkey was about to fulfill in the grand scheme of the story God had been writing. However, they trusted that Jesus knew what He was talking about and ended up following through with what Jesus asked them to do.

This beginning celebration on Palm Sunday would end with horror at the end of the week with the ultimate act of trust. Jesus would put His life into His Father's hands as He carried the weight of the world with the cross that was on His back. The last words of Christ from the cross articulated the moment of magnificent efficacy. They are recorded in Luke 23:46.

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this, he breathed his last.

When Jesus did what He did and said what He said on the cross, He then trusted all of what He had come from Heaven to earth to live and die for into the hands of His Heavenly Father. Jesus trusting His life and death into the hands of His Father would make a way for His people to be in great hands all throughout the rest of eternity.

Matthew 27:50 - 28:8 gives some more specific details about what was put in motion when Jesus did and said those final things on the cross. The final act of trust that Jesus made on the cross was not an ending as much as it was a beginning.

It all has to do with whose hands you are putting your life into with full trust.

Jesus' final words on the cross are words expressing full trust.

A scene from a famous basketball movie called Hoosiers starring Gene Hackman includes a scene of trust. When the game was on the line, and there was only one shot left to win state, they wanted the ball in Jimmy's hands because they all trusted him the most.

And when Jesus was completing His part of the rescue mission of saving the world from sin, death, Satan, and hell, it was time to trust His Father with the rest.

In that moment Jesus puts the proverbial ball in His Father's hands. Why?

Because He had full confidence that His Father would make the shot that not only would win eternity foreveryone who puts the ball in His hands once and for all but also that His Father would be the one who would not let Him decay in a tomb. His Father's hands would be the hands that could raise Him back to life after being dead for three days.

Jesus would never have gone to the cross if He did not have full trust concerning the sure-handedness of His Father.

It all has to do with whose hands you are putting your life into with full trust.

Jesus trusted that His Father would once and for all defeat sin, death, Satan and hell from that point throughout eternity for all who would walk into forgiveness and start a relationship with God through Jesus.

Jesus had full trust in His Father's hands. That's why Luke records these words: "Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice..."

He was clear. He was confident. He was doing just what He said He would do when it came to His life as He said the words recorded in John 10:9-11 and 17-18 - *I am the door.*

Jesus was quoting a prayer with those last words on the cross that Jews said at the end of their day. It was the part of a bedtime prayer that became a famous and regularly used prayer that originated from Psalm 31 that David wrote when he was on the run from King Saul.

Psalm 31:5 says,

“Into your hand, I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.”

It goes on to say in verse 15,

“My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors! Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love!”

“Into your hands, I commit my spirit.”

In a sense, the prayer first century Jews would pray, and the prayer Jesus was praying on the cross before His final breath, is like the prayer that many people learned as kids.

“Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. And if I die before I wake. I pray the Lord my soul to take.”

Or... “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

Jesus was putting the ball in His Father’s hands. And His Father would call a play that would raise Him back from the dead three days later.

Jesus laid down His life into His Father’s Hands.

Whose hands are you putting your life into with full trust today?

Today, if you are a follower of Jesus and you have put your life into His hands with full trust, He wants you to advance the story. The ball is in your hands to do something with it. Go and tell somebody this week.

If you have not put your life into the hands of your Heavenly Father yet, the question for you remains: “Whose hands are you putting your life into with full trust today?”

Today, if you have never put your life into God’s hands, would you pray the prayer Jesus prayed to His Heavenly Father when He trusted and prayed those last words from the cross?

“Father, into your hands I commit My spirit!”