

# The Seven Last Sayings of Christ (4)

## Louis Talbot

[Music until 00:27]

- Announcer

And now we're privileged to bring you Dr. Louis T. Talbot, Chancellor of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. The half century old Christian training center of the West. Now Dr. Lewis T. Talbot.

- Louis Talbot

And good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot greeting you once again in the name of our risen Lord. And I do thank you for the privilege of coming into your home once again. Please remember that all of you folks in radio land considered by us here at the Bible Institute are part of the Biola family. And not only that, but we consider you students of this Bible Institute.

Now you know that this week is Holy Week. One of the two occasions in the year when people stop in their mad rush for pleasure and gain to contemplate the coming into this world of the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on Calvary. And this Holy Week, I-it is a time when we need to put before men and women the reason why the Lord Jesus Christ died on Calvary.

And I think my dear friends that this would be a very, very appropriate time for all of you folks in radio land write a letter to the Bible Institute inclosing a special Easter offering. So that those

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who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death may come to know the good news that you and I rejoice in, the good news of salvation through faith in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are still about eight hundred millions of people who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. And so address your letters to the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, Los Angeles 17 California.

Now we are making a study of the Seven Last Words of the Lord Jesus Christ as He speak them when He hung upon the cross and this morning I want that we should consider the word of salvation which the Lord spoke to the dying thief as recorded in Luke chapter twenty three verses 42 and 43. I want you my dear friends to turn your Bibles please to this portion of God's word Luke Chapter 23 and I want to look at verses 42 and 43.

By the way I think that I might announce here that on Friday a number of churches will be holding services from 12 to 3. And among them is the San Gabriel Union Church which is located on the corner of Las Tunas and Pine in San Gabriel. And Joseph Hemphill, he is the pastor. Seven pastors are going to participate. Each speaking on one of the words that fell upon the lips of the Lord Jesus Christ as He hung on Calvary and Pastor Hemphill has been kind enough to ask me to be one of the speakers.

Now if you cannot remain my dear friend at one, at all through the three hour service, then just drop in for the portion of time that you are able to remain. I want to say that similar services on Friday will be held in the Church of the Open Door, the Lake Avenue Congregational Church in Pasadena, and in many other places.

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Now I am speaking these mornings on The Seven Last Words because many of you are confined to your home and will find that impossible to attend any other services in your community. Now yesterday I spoke on the first word, that is the word of forgiveness. And now we come to the word of salvation that the Lord Jesus Christ spoke to one of the thieves that were crucified with Him. And then tomorrow we're going to consider the word of affection that the Lord Jesus Christ spoke to His mother. And then on Friday I'm going to take the fourth, the fifth, the sixth, and the seventh of these words and especially the last two where the Lord Jesus Christ says, "My God, my God why has Thou forsaken Me?" And then the words, "It is finished."

Now we're going this morning to consider the word of salvation and I want my friends that we should read together this portion to which your Bibles are open. Luke chapter twenty three, verses 42 and 43. And this is what we read here, "And as he. He said unto Jesus, 'Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.' And Jesus said to him, 'Verily I say unto thee today thou shall be with Me in paradise.'" My friends this word was spoken of God's in response to the request of the dying thief and just before we consider the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, I want for a moment that we should ponder what occasioned them. It was no accident that the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified between two thieves.

You know that God was provide- presiding over that scene and from all eternity He had decreed when and where and how and with whom. The Son of God was going to die. And you know that there was nothing that was left to the planning or the caprice of man. So that when Pilate gave orders that the Lord Jesus Christ should be crucified between two malefactors all but known to Himself, He was putting into execution the eternal decree of God and the fulfilling of His

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prophetic word. You know that seven hundred years before this Roman soldier gave that command that God declared through Isaiah that His Son should be numbered with the transgressors.

It's interesting my friend to read that fiftieth chapter of Isaiah because there were many parts of it that were fulfilled when the Lord Jesus Christ hung on Calvary's cross and you know that when He was crucified between two thieves that Pilate was just fulfilling the prophecy to wit that He would be numbered with the transgressors. You know how unlikely, utterly unlikely this appeared? That the Holy One of God should be numbered with the unholy. With two murders and two thieves just simply because that's what they were. These thieves were the John Dillinger of their day. And they were not only thieves but they were murderers all how thieves in those days, just as most of the thieves in in our day, are murderers. And you know my dear friends it's it was very unlikely that the Holy One of God should be numbered with the unholy. That the, the very One whose finger had inscribed the ten words on the tables of stone at Mount Sinai should be assigned a place with a lawless and where the dregs of society and to be executed as it were with with two of the worst criminals of that day.

This seemed utterly inconceivable and yet it actually came to pass. You know that not a word of God ever falls to the ground. Do you remember how that the Psalmist says, "Forever O Lord Thy word is settled in Heaven." And just as God had ordained and just as He announced as so it came to pass. You may ask the question: why did God order it that His beloved Son should be crucified between two thieves? You know that God my friends has a reason for everything that

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He does. He has a good reason for what what He did here in decreeing hundreds of years before Christ came that He was going to be crucified between two thieves.

My friends in this particular instance a number of answers how suggest themselves as you read the word of God. You know that the blessed Lord was crucified between two thieves to, to fully demonstrate the unfathomable depths of shame into which He had descended. And He came down to this earth. He came down and died even where the buried dregs of society. In order that men might know that He identified Himself not with people whose lives around would they clean merely but also with the riffraff and with the murders came to die for them.

And you know that if any of you folks have, have just lived very, very wicked lives you know my dear friend I want to tell you that the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to die for you and He was associated in His death one on either side were, was a murder and a thief. And the Lord Jesus Christ died for them. He went down to the lowest of the low in order that people might know that He was a sinner for - a savior for every man. You know it is remarkable that in His birth the Lord Jesus Christ was surrounded by the beasts of the field and now in His death, He was numbered with the refuse as it were of humanity.

And again the Savior numbered with transgressors was to show us the position that He occupied as our substitute. I want my dear friends just to look at a few things as as you gaze into the face of the Lord Jesus Christ and then turn to your eye to the left or to the right, whichever side this repentant thief was on. And just look at him and there are certain things my dear friends that I, I want you to consider. You know that the word of God says that this thief we read, "And he said

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unto Jesus, 'Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.' And Jesus said unto him, 'Verily verily I say unto you, today thou shalt be with Me in paradise.'" The first thing that I want you to see my dear friends is that this man is a representative sinner. I want you to have a good look at him my dear brother. Have a good look at that thief on the cross because what he was, you are. That is he represents you. He is your representative and whatever God says about that thief is true of you.

You know that there were two things my dear friends about that that man. The first is that he was a thief and the second thing is that he was a murderer and you know that every congregation in this world is a congregation of thieves and murderers. You know that all of us have robbed God of His glory and then we are all murderers as well. I can imagine somebody saying well Mr. Talbot, I am no murderer. My dear friends I want to say that every congregation in this world in God's sight is no more than a congregation of murderers. For unwittingly we have murdered the only being that God cares anything about, His only Son was murdered by the sin of the human race and we are murderers unwittingly and we are guilty of the blood of the Son of God.

Do you know that when Adam and Eve sinned in Eden the son of God was potentially murdered on Calvary then? It only needed time and the development of God's plans to bring about the murder of His Son. And I believe my dear friend if the Lord Jesus Christ were to appear in Los Angeles today and with a preach as He did in those days, it might be that some of the most respectable people in Los Angeles, in Hollywood, or wherever you may be, would desire to murder the son of God once again. The human heart has not changed in the slightest degree by

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means of civilization or education or ecclesiastical refinement than through enmity of the human heart against the Lord Jesus Christ is the same as ever.

You know that some years ago there were two preachers in Edinburgh and one was a gospel preacher and the other was a very eloquent clever man who preached morality and this great moral preacher occupied a certain pulpit one Sunday morning and he preached about virtue and he ended his sermon with his prayer oration. He said, "Oh virtue, virtue, virtue if thou were embodied, all men would love thee." Well you know that the Gospel preacher occupied the pulpit in the evening. He began his sermon in this way. He says, "My friends, my reverend brother this morning observed that if virtue were embodied all men would love her." He said, "Brethren, I want to say that virtue has been embodied. Virtue was embodied nineteen hundred years ago."

And he said, "Did all men love her?" He said, "They spat upon Him, they spat upon her, they crowned her with thorns. They led her to Calvary and they crucified her between two thieves." He says, "Jesus Christ is the very embodiment of, of virtue." And he says, "That if the Lord Jesus, the embodiment of virtue would come down here to the city of Edinburgh that men and women would crucify Him again." Oh my dear friends, I am speaking this morning over this radio to a congregation of thieves and to a congregation of murderers.

You may not like that, but my dear friends that fellow on the cross is a representative sinner and let me say that if our sins were, were allowed to have their full course, we would once again murder the Son of God. You know that sin hates Jesus. You can't reconcile sin and the Lord

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Jesus Christ and if you want to be a friend of your sin, you're thereby a constitutor of the enemy of God.

I want you to have a good look at him my friend. He is a representative sinner. Jesus was in the midst, and on one side of Him, there was a saved sinner and on the other side there was an unsaved sinner. Do you know my dear friends that the Lord Jesus Christ as far as this world is concerned is still in the midst and this world is made up of saved, saved thieves and unsaved thieves. Have a good look at him brother. Have a good look at him. A representative of the sinner. And there he is under the condemnation of death. And that's where you are. Those three things that were, that were characteristic, that were descriptive of that, that saved thief my dear friend, is true of you.

Now the second thing that I want you to have to consider as you look at this man, my dear friend is this. I want you to see this man as having come to the end of himself before he could be saved. Here was a, a man, a murderer, a dying robber, a representative sinner, and my dear friends he had come to the end of himself.

What do you mean by that? He had come to the place where he couldn't work. He came to the place where he couldn't walk. He couldn't do anything because his hands were nailed to the cross. And brother, he couldn't go anywhere because his feet were nailed to the cross. He had come to the end of himself. And I want to say to you if you're ever going to be saved brother, you have to come to the end of yourself. You have to come to the place where you can say, "Nothing in my hand I bring you." You have to come to the place where you will say, "My feet

cannot walk any other way but the way of sin." You know that if you had gone to that thief my dear friend, it wouldn't have been any use for you to tell him to do anything in order to be saved.

Why do anything while he is nailed, his hands were nailed to a cross? What could he do? Then you couldn't tell him to turn over a new leaf and walk in another direction because his feet were nailed. He couldn't work and he couldn't walk. He was brought to the end of himself and he was under condemnation. Do you know my dear friends that that's the hardest thing to get over to people today? That they cannot do anything in order to merit salvation. They cannot work and they cannot walk. They cannot walk in the ways of God and they cannot do anything that would merit the favor of God.

Do you believe that? You know that I've been ministering now as a pastor for about 40 years neighbors. And I've spent about twenty six of those years here in the city of Los Angeles. And as I come in contact with people and talk to them about God, you know that the first thing that they answer is that they begin to tell me what they're doing. And that they're not so bad after all. And they always try to keep the golden rule. And they're very busy with their hands and very busy with their feet.

But my dear friend if you and I are ever going to know the grace of God, you have to come to the end yourself. Poor struggling humanity you know they're always trying to DO something. Join the Church and be baptized and go to communion and give money to the poor and this and that and the other things a lot of good things my dear friends, but the only trouble with a lot of those

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folks they're unconverted people is that they get the cart before the horse. You and I have to go into God's bankruptcy court before God'll ever talk to you about salvation.

Do you remember how that the Lord Jesus, He said to a man by the name of Simon in whose house the Lord Jesus Christ was. And you remember that a woman came in and washed the feet of the Lord, of the Lord Jesus. And Simon perceived in his heart certain things. And the Lord Jesus Christ said to Simon, "Simon I have somewhat to say unto you." And Simon said, "Master say on!" And the Lord Jesus Christ said this. Now listen. He said, "There was a certain man that had two debtors. One owed fifty pence and the other one in five hundred pence. And when they had nothing to pay, get that, he frankly forgave them both." My friends there are some folks in this world that are 50 pence sinners and there are some folks that have five hundred pence sinners. But whether you're a fifty pence sinner or whether you're five hundred pence sinner, brother, you have come to the place where you've got nothing to pay. And the Lord Jesus Christ is emphasized was emphasizing to Simon in whose home He was as a guest, that not only that woman that who had been a sinner and who had washed His feet with her tears. Not only but Simon, that self-righteous Pharisee, he too had to go into the bankruptcy court.

I went to see a man who was dying some little time ago. Young fellow, I think I've told you this before. Fella had been gassed in the war. I stood by his bedside. And he was having difficulty to breathe. This was some years ago. The fellow is in Heaven now. So I stood by his bedside I said, "My dear friend," I said, "are you a Christian?" And he says, "Oh!" He says, "Mr. Talbot, I'm doing my level best to be a Christian." And I looked at that poor fellow stretched out, his hands weren't nailed and his feet weren't nailed. But my dear friend, he was just as helpless as that thief

on the cross whose hands and feet were nailed. And I said to him, "My dear friend, you're doing your best to be a Christian what you are, what are you doing?"

And he said, "Well that's it." He says, "I can't do anything." This fellow was only about twenty seven years of age. He had been gassed in the war. Where he got the gas I do not know but there he was and he was having a terrible time to breathe. And he said, "You know that the thing that distresses me is this that I'll never be able to rise on this bed." But he says that, "I'm doing my best to be a Christian." I says, "What are you doing?" He says, "That's it. I'm not doing anything." And I said, "My dear brother," I says, "God has, He wants you to come to that place." I said, "You forget all about doing, trying to be a Christian." I said, "Look away to Calvary!" Oh I could tell you a story about that fellow you know, but just let me put it in a nutshell. Brother he looked. He put all of his deadly doing down and he looked and he was saved.

A few days after I saw him he went to be with the Lord Jesus Christ washed in the blood of the Lamb. My friend have a good look at that saved thief. He was a thief. He was a murderer and he had come to the end of himself. Now the next thing that I want you to note my dear friend is the saving faith that he had.

You know that he said this. You know at the beginning my dear friend this fella joined with the other fella in railing on Christ and then something happened. He began to speak to the Lord and before he spake to the Lord, he spake to that other thief after joining with the thief in cursing Christ. He began to rebuke that other thief and he says, "Doust thou not fear God?" Doust thou not fear God? And then he says, "We are in this place justly. Justly. We are getting the the the

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just rewards of our deeds. But this man has done nothing amiss." My friend where did he get that? I'm sure that that thief hadn't, hadn't read much of the Old Testament. And then he said to the Lord, he says, "Lord remember me."

I want to ask you my dear friend what gave to that thief that illumination of mind and heart? I'll tell you my dear friends what I think how he came to see in Christ more than a man. First of all he heard the Lord Jesus Christ pray for His murderers. When He said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." That was something new to that thief.

And then he looked that at the doubtless over at the top of the cross and he saw that superscription the superscription that that Pilate had written there. "This is Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews." My friend he had heard something and he had read something. And he believed what he heard and he believed what he read. And he says, "If this man is a king, then He must have the kingdom." And he said, "Lord remember me."

I want to tell you my dear friend. All you folks who do not know the Lord, you have heard something, you've heard the preaching the gospel and you have read something in God's book. I wonder if you believe it. This thief believed it! And then he said to the Lord, he says, "Lord remember me." That's all that he said. "Lord remember me when thou coming into Thy kingdom." And the Lord Jesus said to him, "Today, today thou shall be with Me in paradise." I want to say this my dear friend, you know that the Lord gave to this thief a great deal of information in regard to what death means to a Christian. The Lord says "Today." Now that rules out soul sleep. "Today thou shall be."

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And the next with Me, with Me. Heaven my dear friends is going to be a place with streets of gold and gates of pearl but it's gonna be more than that. Heaven is going to be with Christ "with Me in paradise." You and I my dear friends we're going to see this thief one of these days and we'll see him up that fellow with eternal life.

Thank you for listening. This is the word of salvation and I trust that you folks have heard it. Goodbye and God bless you all. And tune in tomorrow.

- Announcer

You just listened to Dr. Louis T. Talbot, Chancellor of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. The half century old Christian training center of the West earnestly covets your continued prayerful support for its worldwide ministry. Listen each day Monday through Friday for a verse by verse study of the Bible.