

Greater Love

Scripture

This is Amazing Grace

Victorious God

Offering

True and Better VIDEO

When Karl Barth, retired and in his later years, visited an American theological school, one of the students asked him, "How would you characterize your theology, Dr. Barth?" Barth thought for a moment and said that his answer was a song he learned at his mother's knee: "Jesus loves me, this I know..." Isn't that great! Today we will examine the recorded words of Christ from the cross. Vance Havner approached the sayings of Christ on the cross from this position, "In his dying Christ provided an example for my living."

John 15:13

Luke 23:34, "Father forgive them..."

- The forgiveness of God precedes our desire and ability to repent
- God's forgiveness of sins through Christ's death, burial and resurrection is the basis for all forgiveness, even between people
- Love's greatest response to offense is "Father forgive them."
- **Ephesians 4:32**, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

Thank You God for Saving Me

John 19:26-27, "Woman, behold your son..."

At the Cross

At the Cross (Hymn)

Luke 23:43, "Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise"

- Jesus didn't go through his horrifying death just to abandon you in the hour of your greatest need.
- "You will be with me" is the greatest promise Jesus gives us.
- From the cross Jesus taught us that love for God is most often acted out in love of others.
- **Mark 12:33-34**, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. ' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself. ' There is no other commandment greater than these."
 - Jesus' words were validated by Jesus' actions on the cross.
 - Jesus demonstrated **Greater Love** for the criminal dying next to him.
 - **This action proves that it is never too late to start following Jesus!**

Matthew 27:46, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

- Christ identifies with our abandonment
- His own Father and his closest followers abandoned him—**Matthew 26:47-56**
- The pain of suffering turned into the agony of his Father's abandonment
- **Mark 10:45**, "For the Son of man also came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Man of Sorrows

John 19:28, "I thirst!"

- They offered him cheap sour wine.
- The world's solution to our suffering is always a cheap, unsatisfying substitute for the peace, love and joy only God can give.

John 19:30, "It is finished!"

- The powers of this world, motivated by Satan, killed the Son of God.
- Satan's seeming victory became his greatest defeat. The death of the Lamb of God was God's plan for redeeming us to him self. Christ's sacrificial death (GREATER LOVE) satisfied God's requirement to remove our sins.
- **Mission Accomplished!**
- Jesus conquered death, hell and the grave. Jesus came to destroy the works of Satan. Nothing can keep you away from the love of God, except you!

Luke 23:46, "When Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, " Father, 'into your hands I commit my spirit.' Having said this, He breathed His last."

- God loves you so much he sent Jesus to die on the cross for you.
- Like the thief on the cross, you can cry out to Jesus to save you.
- When you die, you will confidently say: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

Jesus Loves Me

- In the end, Jesus decided that it would be better to be hated, spat on, tortured, scourged almost to death, otherwise treated brutally, and then murdered on a cross than to spend another moment without you.
- He loved you so much that he would die to be nearer to you.

Discussion Guide

John 15:13

- What reaction do you have when you hear the song "Jesus Loves Me?"
- Respond to this statement: In His dying, Christ provided an example for my living.

Luke 23:34

- How does Jesus' example on the cross help you in forgiving others?

John 19:26-27

- What does Jesus' actions with his mother suggest to you?

Luke 23:39-43

- How can a dying man still be so bitter and blasphemous?
- Do you believe in death-bed conversions?

John 19:30

- Was this a statement of defeat or victory? Why?