

The Last Words of Jesus: **“Your sins are forgiven”**

- * As we read a series of events from Luke 5, we will discover what seems to be a strange response from Jesus!
- * In the midst of several “healing stories,” another man is presented to Jesus and His response was “your sins are forgiven!”
- * What is Jesus doing here and what is He saying?
- * Before considering this statement, let’s establish some things said concerning the works of Jesus and the reason for His coming!

1 John 1:1-2, 5-7 (NLT)

1 We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. 2 This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us.

5 This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 2:1-2, 5-8, 15-16, 24-27

2 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 2 He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

5 But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. 6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. 7 Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. 8 Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining.

15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

24 So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. 25 And in this fellowship we enjoy the eternal life he promised us. 26 I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. 27 But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don’t need anyone to teach you what is true. For the

Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.

1 John 3:1,7-8

1 See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him.

7 Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. 8 But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

I. First let's establish some things before we move on with any further thoughts!

A. The Epistles of John are attributed to "John the Evangelist."

1. He is the same John of the gospels or "John the Beloved."
2. This letter was written somewhere between 95-110 A.D.
3. John states himself the purpose of the gospel and letters:
To reveal that Jesus was the Christ, the Anointed One!
4. It is traditionally believed that John wrote while in Ephesus.
5. So, much like Paul's letter to Rome was written to the Church explaining "this great salvation" and how it works, John was writing to simply, but yet firmly, declare Jesus as the Son of God!

B. Now, *this is my whole point before moving further: Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil!*

1. So, according to CONTEXT, what are the "works of the devil?"
2. We see statements like, "what true life is." God's definition!
3. "Fellowshipping with God is living in the light."
4. "Practice living the truth and we will not walk in spiritual darkness."
5. We read several statements that "Jesus provided the way for us to be able to do this."
6. Notice one of the statements we read:

"...For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining." (Could this be "praying for the Kingdom?")
7. John further says, "Don't love and be affectionate with the world."
8. He says to "remain faithful to the Lord!"
9. He strongly reminds us that "The Holy Spirit teaches and empowers us to live this new life."

10. Then he says, “Jesus has come to destroy that which keeps you from being able to live this life God designed for us!”
Jesus came to “destroy the works of the devil!”

II. When read in context, especially in a single sitting, it seems that the provision of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice, is to neutralize whatever keeps me from living a life of fellowship with God and each other!

A. My salvation and redemption in general is not about a destination but rather is about a condition!

John 17:3 (NIV)

3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

1. I am not belittling an eternal existence in heaven, but what what I am saying is salvation is about a Person, not a place!
2. Paul mentions over and over the fact of relationship with God through Christ!!

Philippians 3:10 (NIV)

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

B. Let’s get back to Luke 5 and Jesus saying, “your sins are forgiven.”

Luke 5:17-26 (NIV)

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. 18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. 20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.” 21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? 24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

1. Within this simple story, we see the answer to everything!
2. Notice, there were Pharisees and teachers of the law present.
3. They dropped a man needing healing down through the roof!
4. Jesus didn't address his need for healing but rather something totally different...his need for his separation from God to be dealt with!
5. The Pharisees said, "Who does He think He is? God?"
6. Jesus' response is, "Which is easier to deal with, healing or forgiveness?"
7. "...and yes, for your information, I DO think I am God!"
8. Notice the last verse in the explanation of this story:

Luke 5:26 (NIV)

26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

C. In other words, "What the what?"

1. You see, the challenge that many of us subconsciously with, is that God Himself has dealt with our separation from Him!!!
2. Our Savior IS God!!! Jesus IS the Creator!
3. Study all the aspects of your salvation!
4. Study Christ and Who He is!
5. You are created in the "image of God" and through the work of Jesus' redemption He has restored you to "His likeness!"