



# Hard Sayings of Jesus

## Lesson 12 Words From a Hard Place

### Worship

**Read responsively these verses from Psalm 16.**

**Leader:** LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup;

**Group:** you have made my lot secure.

**L:** The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

**G:** surely I have a delightful inheritance.

**L:** I have set the LORD always before me.

**G:** Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

**L:** Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

**G:** my body also will rest secure,

**L:** because you will not abandon me to the grave,

**G:** nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

**L:** You have made known to me the path of life;

**G:** you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

### Introduction

A key scene in the movie *Saving Private Ryan* is an exchange between the title character and the man who was giving his life for him. Explain what is striking about what was said.

Scene – Death of Captain John H. Miller and Final Speech.

After a large number of soldiers had sacrificed their lives to save one man. Tom Hank's dying character looks at Private Ryan and says, "***Earn this.***"

What's your reaction to it?



## Notes

How is that different from the words Jesus speaks to us?

### Studying God's Word

Jesus sacrificed his life for us. As he did so, he spoke “seven words”—seven statements from the cross that tell us so much about his love for us and his will for us. Some of them are hard to understand; some, hard to believe; some, hard to put into practice. Yet in all of them we can find God's amazing love.

Today, we'll take a brief look at those words.

**Read Luke 23:32-34.**

1. What's so difficult about these words? (Consider also **John 12:9,10** and **John 3:2**.)
2. What makes this difficult for you to believe?
3. Jesus calls us to love and forgive as he does. Identify the difficult implication(s) this has for the way God calls us to live.

**Read Luke 23:38-43.**

4. Often we point to these words as words of comfort. Yet, explain why these words to this dying criminal can be hard for us to understand.
5. Give some examples of why these words can be hard to believe or practice in our own lives.

**Read John 19:25-27.**

Notes

6. Identify what makes these words hard to hear.

7. How do they help you understand some amazing truths about your Savior?

**Read Matthew 27:45,46.**

8. List as many things as possible that make these words hard to understand.

9. What was Jesus expressing?

10. How do these hard words help you understand God's love for you?

**Read John 19:28,29.**

11. Perhaps it's hard to understand why words like this would be recorded for us. What key things do they tell you about your Savior's suffering and death?

12. When are words like this a comfort to you?

**Read John 19:30.**

13. These words are simple and straightforward. Sometimes the real challenge is *to believe them*. Explain why that is.

### Notes

14. How does the rest of the verse help show that the price for sins truly was paid for?

**Read Luke 23:44-47.**

15. It's a beautiful end to a terrible sacrifice. Yet consider the centurion's words. What will always be a difficulty for people when it comes to Christ's death?

## Summary

### Key Points:

- Jesus' words from the cross bring us face-to-face with how terrible God's anger over sin is.
- Jesus' words from the cross bring us face-to-face with the love of God that's so deep, it's almost unbelievable!

## During the Week

Take some time every day this week (perhaps during morning or evening prayers) to read again through some or all of Jesus' words on the cross. Incorporate the truths you find there into your prayers. One possible example:

Dear Savior, when you were dying on the cross, you still loved and thought of others. I confess that so often I'm so consumed with my own worries and hardships that I forget the needs and pains of others. Help me pray for them and look for ways to show them your love. And when I falter or fail, renew and uplift me with the knowledge that on the cross, you also thought of me and loved me as you gave your life to forgive me. Amen.