



The Dying Words of Jesus

Pastor Ted Cunningham

If you have “spring break is over” blues, would you raise your hand? Yeah, it’s sad, but Easter is here and we’re ready to go. I was thinking about it this week. How many of you have been on a plane in the last week, getting somewhere. Are there any tourists here?

I heard a pilot last year make this statement... And we know it’s true and they are usually gentle about it when they say, “We are here for your safety more than your comfort.” Have you ever heard a flight attendant or a pilot say that? Well, I must have been on a plane with a pilot who was in a bad mood. He came on and he was emphatic about the fact. He said, “I just want to remind everyone on the plane that we are here for your safety, *NOT* your comfort.” I thought *I think you’re supposed to say more than my comfort* because I want the little glass of Diet Coke. Does anybody know what I’m talking about? They don’t give peanuts or pretzels anymore.

I began to think about it. I wonder if we should be saying that more at church. Should I stand up every week and say, “We are primarily here for your safety more than your comfort”? But, we’re serving coffee in little white cups. We offer snacks to the kids. Your shirts are untucked, so we’re casual. Sometimes, we can take that casual approach that we have to ministry and to life and think it means that comfort is the most important thing. At our church, we believe it’s about dying to yourself, so here’s what we want you to know. We want you to get coffee, sit in these comfortable chairs, and relax because we want you to be caffeinated and comfortable during the death process. I’m thinking I’m going to have to stand up every now and then and remind you that we are here for your safety more than your comfort.

As we enter into Easter, we have this great opportunity to look at *The Dying Words of Jesus*. We get to look at his seven statements that he made from the cross.

Last week, I met a lady in her 70s who has only been to one funeral in her lifetime. That just shocked me. I come from an Irish Catholic family so we go to three to four a year. We have a lot of people in our family. We call them family reunions. That’s what they are; they’re not funerals. How many of you have never been to a funeral? If you’ve only been to one funeral in your life?

We’re going to encourage you today. I was challenged by this to say a lot of us talk about death, but are we prepared for it? It’s beyond the question that we looked at with the death of Jacob and “Am I ready to die?” Do I know that Jesus is my savior and heaven is my home? We looked at that message that death is the enemy, Jesus is my savior, and heaven is my home, so I’m ready. We’re really looking at this emphasis of how to die.

At Woodland Hills, our mission statement is “Inspiring the family to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.” In other words, our desire is that we take on the words, the teaching, the behavior, the life of Jesus. We understand doctrine, we understand truth, but we take that on and we live that out in our lives as well. In all the ways that he lived, in all the ways that he spoke, and, as we’ll see today, in all the ways that he died and everything he said as he was dying. How does that apply to us? How do we take that on in our final moments? Again, my death may be unexpected, but if my death is in a bed, in my home, with family gathered around, there are some more statements of how I want to die and how you and I can process death and the grieving and mourning process.

This week, I reminded Carson of how we use to hang out when he was much smaller. How many of you guys in here have a recliner? With Carson and Corynn both, I’d lay in the recliner... It was built for one, but they would lay on the side of me at night as we would just chill together. Obviously, at almost 11 and 13, they are kind of out of the size requirements to be able to have two of us in the same chair.

This week, Carson came walking through the family room and I go, “Hey, Carson, do you remember when you used to lay right here.” He knew the tone in which I was asking the question. He reluctantly came over, crawled up into the chair, and laid down with me. We’re head to foot and we’re both sitting there. My first thought is, *Wow, this is very uncomfortable*. You don’t know where to put your arm. He’s uncomfortable. I’m uncomfortable. I go “Hey, isn’t this awesome? Do you remember this?”

We’re both under the blanket and then my ribs started to hurt. I thought one of them was breaking. I turn onto my side and now we’re facing each other. He’s looking at me like this is ridiculous. Then I said,

“There’s a day coming...”

He goes, “Oh, here we go. Everything comes back to your death.”

That’s all I’ve been talking about in March, so let’s talk about it because next week is Easter. So, if you’re brand new to Woodland Hills, we want you to come back next week. Tourist, find a church that preaches the resurrection of Jesus.

I said, “When I’m on my final days, I want you to crawl up in the bed with me like this and have this moment.” We looked at this. I want to speak a blessing over my children. We saw this in Genesis 49 with the death of Jacob. I want to give them instructions for my burial, for my funeral. I want to take the last breath, Lord willing, on my own.

Here’s what we are going to see today. I want you to start processing the words of your Savior personally today. What do you have to learn from the seven statements Jesus shares from the cross? What you find out is what he shares from the cross; he’s sharing it in agony and pain. His last words reflect his entire life and ministry. Everything about who Jesus is comes out in these seven statements.

Your last words will flow straight from your heart. We teach this around here all the time. Proverbs 4: 23 says ***Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.*** Every word you speak, every action you take, flows from your heart. On your deathbed, it will be no different. You will speak words straight from your heart.

I look this week to find some last words. Voltaire said this in his last words. *“I have been abandoned by God and by men! I will give you half my fortune if you extend my life by six months.”* There is a person with no faith. There is a person clinging to this life upon this earth. He’ll spend whatever it takes to have a few more months.

This one’s good because if you’re a teacher... English teachers love this. These are the last words of a French grammarian. ***“I am about to – or I am going to – die: either expression is correct.”*** I thought that was pretty good and that will be some of you in here. You’ll go out this way.

I think the words of the president I am named after (Theodore Roosevelt) may be my final words. *“Put out the light.”* I don’t want it to be my last words, but my last words might be “Would you please turn off...” I may even say, “...the dang lights.” And I may throw in a “Please shut the door. Turn the heat down; we don’t need to be sitting in here in a toasty 67. Turn it down to 62; let’s save a couple bucks.”

Or *“I am ready.”* – Woodrow Wilson

If you’ve been around those that have taken their last breath, have you ever noticed that the statements are short? The statements are short because for many, there is not the energy to have this long discourse. The breath is not in the lungs to be able to share long stories, to give long instructions. You are going to see a lot of that with the death of Jesus today.

I want to share with you one pastor’s words about the crucifixion because we need the context of how Jesus shares these words. You hearing me speak the words of Jesus today in this context right here does not do justice to the way these words came out of Jesus. The crucifixion, one pastor says, was a form of torture that literally knocked the wind out of a person. The weight of the body, suspended by arms, caused immediate pain in the chest, paralyzing the pectoral muscles and making breathing extremely difficult. The person being crucified could inhale, but had great difficulty exhaling.

These words are coming out on the exhale. They could get the air in, but the way the crucifixion was designed... It was not only torture, but it was also to humiliate a person. The words you see today will be few but powerful. This pastor says to exhale, he would have to push on his feet and straighten his leg to release the pressure exerted on his arms and chest, but the pain this caused his feet was too much and he would have to stop. If the Romans wanted to shorten agony, all they would have to do is break the person’s leg. According to the scripture, Jesus’ leg were not broken. In this context, while he is fighting for every single breath, Jesus utters these last words.

We have much to learn from the way our savior lived, the way our Savior ministered, and the way our Savior died. And may these words be upon your heart today and on the day of your death.

I like what Randy Alcorn said and I want to read it for you because we've been having this theme as well as part of our messages over the last couple of months. It comes from Dr. David Jeremiah. He said, "People will come up to me all the time after a message, especially a message where I'm teaching about hell or judgment. The response will be 'My Jesus would never...' or 'My God would not allow...'"

Dr. Jeremiah, in his statesman-like voice, says, "You're right; your Jesus never would because your Jesus does not exist. The Jesus you are talking about, you have created."

This is important to understand not just how the crucifixion works, this torture device, this way of death that was to bring humiliation to the person in the end, not just death. We have to understand why Jesus was crucified. Randy Alcorn... Probably the most popular book he's written in on heaven. Here's what he says. *It's common to hear people focus solely on the compassion and love of Jesus, and neglect the other parts of His character, including His holiness and wrath, sovereignty and lordship. Jesus was indeed a friend of sinners, but He was crucified for much more than that. The gentle, compassionate Jesus is also the Jesus who drove the merchant-thieves from the Temple and spoke condemnation against self-righteous religious leaders. Were Jesus as meek and mild and utterly tolerant as many think, He never would have been crucified. But His less popular qualities so outraged people that they nailed Him to a cross.*

I want to look at these seven statements and maybe one will jump out at you today. Maybe one of the dying statements of Jesus will make you think *I haven't thought about that in perspective. Is that in my heart?* As followers of Jesus, we are to take on the words, the teachings, the life, the behavior of our Savior.

1. Forgiving Words

We read in Luke 23. **33** *When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals...* Typically, when a criminal would be crucified, that was their last moment to get their digs in. This was their time to hurl insults at the people crucifying them. That was typically the response of a criminal. You didn't see a lot of repentance flowing from the cross. **...one on his right, the other on his left.** Now this is important. Jesus is obviously not hurling insults. **34** *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* Just like in his life, for the reason that he came. He came as a Savior. He is offering forgiveness.

I thought about this a lot over the last couple of months. I almost think our church needs to make a banner that we travel with wherever we're doing funerals. Whether we are at a funeral home or like yesterday at the College of the Ozarks, or here in our chapel. Wherever we are doing a funeral this banner needs to go up over the outside as people walk in. It just simply needs to say, *"Check your unresolved anger here."*

I've been to too many funerals where there is anger in family members, where the insults come from family members. I've been to funerals where a son refuses to carry the casket for his father; he won't be a pallbearer because of the anger he has for his dad. It's time for you to take on the life and the teachings of your Savior and offer forgiveness. You will resolve anger by offering forgiveness.

Jesus is being crucified and says "Father forgive them for they don't know what they are doing." This is important and one theologian, J.C. Ryle, puts it this way. *"While the blood of the greatest sacrifice started to flow, the greatest of all high priests started to intercede."*

Jesus is the source of forgiveness. Forgive as God forgave you in Christ Jesus. The person that you're mad at is not your source of forgiveness. You're not waiting for them to change. You're not waiting for them to say something different. You're not waiting for them to apologize. Jesus is your source of forgiveness. He's on the cross to offer forgiveness. We model that in our lives by offering it to those around us. I'm not going out of this world with unresolved anger. I've decided that. Whatever issues I may have, we are going to take care of.

I remember the last time I was with Grandpa Cunningham, my dad's dad. I flew with Corynn. She was not quite two. I wanted to get her on the plane before I had to pay for the ticket. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? We flew out to see Grandpa. I rented a Crown Victorian. My grandfather was a big dude. He was in his 80s and I didn't want to have to pick him up into an SUV. I had the car seat in the back for Corynn and I picked up my grandfather. What's the first thing you do when you pick up grandpa? He was in a nursing home and he had been in there for a while. If he's diabetic, you definitely do this. You take him to McDonalds for an ice cream cone. That's the very first thing you did.

I picked grandpa up and we went to get an ice cream cone. Then we went to Kmart and I got one of the little scooters with the basket. I told grandpa to get whatever he wanted. He was going up and down the aisles. I was taking care of an 80 plus year old man and a toddler throughout the whole day. It was a lot of stress, but it was good, it was an opportunity. He wanted to go see Grandma. Grandma is buried on a hill in Elizabethtown. We stopped and bought flowers. He bought a plant.

He has a walker that turns into a seat, so I sat him down right in front of Grandma's grave. I went back, got Corynn, and brought her up. Then I went back, got the flowers, and I lay them there. I kid you not, Grandpas wanted to plant them. I don't have a shovel. He told me to just kind of peel the ground back. So, with my hands, I started digging a hole at the cemetery. I put the flowers in, patted the dirt back around it, and Grandpa just sat there. We share some stories about Grandma and then it's time to go back to the car. I walked Corynn back... now she's not quite two. Over my shoulder, her arms were stretched out and she was yelling "Grandpa!" In her little tiny mind, she thought I was leaving him there.

My response to her was "I'm not leaving him here... yet." I told her I was going to put her in the car and go back and get him. I buckled her in and went back to get Grandpa. It was a great day.

We pulled up outside the nursing home... I will never forget my Grandpa asking me "Is there anything I need to say?" He was at the point where he was calling me Grandson. I love that. It's when your grandparents have so many grandchildren that they stop calling them by name for fear they are going to forget one. It was at that point that all of his grandchildren became Grandson or Granddaughter.

He said, "Grandson, is there anything I need to say?" Knowing this would be our last time together, he said, "I don't want to leave anything unsaid. Do you forgive me?"

I got the opportunity to speak blessing over him. I go, "Grandpa, you've been the best grandpa a guy could ask for. Whatever mistakes or challenges you faced in life, they're done, they're covered."

I want to forgive everyone before I die. If there are any issues or bitterness or resentment, harboring of any ill feelings, let's get it taken care of. Can you say that? If you claim the name of Jesus, if you place faith in Jesus, you are a follower of the Lord, my encouragement to you is don't wait for your deathbed; do it now. Offer forgiveness. You say, "They don't deserve it." The executioners didn't deserve it. Jesus said, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they are doing."

2. Assuring Words

Jesus' heart for ministry comes through. Just as it was upon the earth, it is during his death. These are assuring words. **39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"**

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?" Now watch this. This is a man who now understands why he is there and he has a humble spirit. **41 "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."** The sinless Jesus.

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

My lesson from this? **I want others to go to heaven with me.** I think about Linda who passed away a few weeks back. Every time you would see her, everything coming out of her mouth on her deathbed was "I want to know my children have placed faith in Jesus. That's it. That's all I want." I believe she was holding on until she had that assurance. She was a dying evangelist on her deathbed. Jesus is speaking about the kingdom, just as he told parable after parable – stories that are of kingdom meaning, but have an earthly plotline so we can understand it. Upon the cross, he continues to teach about the kingdom and he shares with the criminal.

3. The Caring Words

Not only is he concerned about the loss, that they would still come to the kingdom, but now he is concerned about his family, making sure he is taking care of his family. The scripture says **26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple...** This is John, who is not only his disciple, but also his best friend. **...whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," 27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.** I hope when I have very little capacity left in my lungs to breath that I am thinking about the physical needs of my family.

I thought about it this week. I have a life insurance policy. I got one a few years back. It's cheap when you're young, just to encourage all of you.

I shared it with Amy. When I told her what the amount was, she said it wasn't enough. So, I got a second policy. Then at some point... especially if I go now. I think husband number two should carry some of the burden. That's poor humor. I pay \$60.00 or \$70.00 a month for a pretty good sum so she'll be taken care of. It's one of my favorite payments every month. I like knowing my family is taken care of if something were to happen to me. **I want to make sure my loved ones are cared for before I die.**

One of the best stories from Gary Smalley's memorial service yesterday was from Michael, their youngest son. He was with his dad the last time that Gary was able to speak, which was on a Wednesday before the Sunday when Gary passed away. On Wednesday, Michael had one on one time with him. He wants one final blessing from his dad.

He says, "Dad, what is it that you have to tell me? What is it that you can share with me? What am I forgetting? What do I need to know?" He wants his dad to pass that mantle onto him of being a husband and a dad and of ministry.

Michael said Gary paused for a little bit. Again, words were very few. Gary looked at Michael after a good long pause and he was thinking about the last words he needed to give his son. This is what Gary said... And only Gary Smalley can get away with saying this. He looks at Michael and says, "You need a new truck."

That's good. If you know Gary, one of his passions in life was to buy tires for people. I'm not going to ask you to raise your hand, but there are probably people in here that he has purchased groceries for or he has purchased tires for you. He loved meeting the physical needs of people. I heard that the very last thing he had to eat upon this earth was banana cream pie. I brought in a dozen donuts. I knew he loved maple donuts so I thought *I'm going to get these; he's going to end his life with a maple donut.* He wasn't ready for that. Just as he lived his life, even in his death, he was thinking about the needs of other people.

I don't know how I'm going out. I don't know if it's going to be painful. I don't know if it's going to be long and drawn out or short and quick, but I truly hope that I can model the words of my Savior. I hope that I'm able to look around at my family and my children and maybe at that time, my grandchildren and think about what they need and what I can share with them and give them and how I can instruct them.

This is Jesus. He's thinking about the lost, inviting the lost to go with him. He's thinking about his family and caring for his family. Again, as he is having a difficult time exhaling, he's thinking about his family.

4. Agonizing Words

We'll spend a little bit of time here understanding this: ***45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")***.

If you want to see how it was probably said, *The Passion of the Christ* does a good job with this. There are long pauses between each statement. That's because he is fighting for that breath. He's crying out

from the cross “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” What does that mean? This is probably the most confusing, especially for new believers. It’s at that moment that God the Father turns his back on the Son. Jesus has taken the sin of the world. He has taken your sin and my sin upon him and a holy God can have nothing to do with that. He turns his back on the son.

I think about people who say, “I’ve been abandoned. No one understand abandonment.” Listen, your high priest... When it says he has experienced what you have experienced, he understands. He was abandoned by his Father because of you and me, because of sin, and this pain was great.

So, what lesson do we take from this? **I want to cry out to God before I die.** If I have doubts, if I have fears, if I have questions, that will be a good time to cry out. I love being gathered around the bed, watching someone cry out to their Father in heaven and family joining in, crying out to their Father in heaven. Whatever pain they’re dealing with, whatever difficulty they are dealing with, whatever fears or doubts they have, this is the time to bring it before the heavenly Father.

5. Thirsting Words

His human words are his thirsting words. It’s one of two of the shortest statements. John 19 says, ***28 Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”*** We see the human side of Jesus. ***29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.***

I want my physical needs met before I die. There is no greater moment than when you gather around a bed and watch a husband meet the physical needs of his wife. Typically, it’s in the form of ice chips. It’s one of those mugs they give you at the hospital. I don’t know who came up with the one mug that every hospital in the world give out. Does anybody know what I’m talking about? It is the same mug with a different logo and a bendy straw so that person can take their last sip.

When I go to visit people, I love asking, “Is there anything I can get for you?” I shared this story last year. It was the first time I’ve ever heard this. I said, “I’d be happy to run out and get something for you to eat. I know that sometimes the hospital food can be difficult to digest. What can I get you that you would enjoy. As your pastor, I’m getting you whatever you want.”

Last year... it was Angie’s mom. She thought about it for a bit. She processed it.

I get sandwiches; I get Chick-fil-A... I love Chick-fil-A because you don’t have to pray over Chick-fil-A; you know that, right? Chick-fil-A is automatically blessed; they pray over it when they get it. We were at Chick-fil-A this week and I said “Let’s pray” and they person I was with said that we didn’t need to. I get a lot of soup requests.

But, this sweet lady, in her mid-80s, looked at me... I’ve never heard this answer before and I will probably never hear it again. She goes, “Do you know what sounds real good? Lobster.”

To which I looked at the husband and go “Go get it, buddy. This church is on a budget.”

Whenever I talk to my kids about my death, I'm always the first to go. Amy will be there, and I want the ice chips and I want the drink.

We know this about Jesus. He was fully God and fully man. He even requested that his own physical needs be met in the midst of ministering to those around him: the criminal and his family.

6. The Completing Words

To me, this is when it really gets sweet. Again, I wonder if this could have been said in one breath, in one exhale, or maybe two. I don't know how much breath he would have had at the end. I could imagine it was not a lot. I imagine these words coming out.

Scripture says, ***30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.***

I want to acknowledge that my work is done. For I am created in Jesus to do good works which he prepared in advance for me to do. You, follower of Jesus, have been created in Christ Jesus to do good works which he has prepared in advance for you to do. Can you think of anything better at the end than saying "I've done those good works. Not in my name, in your name. Created in you, I've done it."

Some of you are wondering if you need to get me help. You're concerned that I'm prophesying over my life right now. I'm not prophesying over my life. I don't watch as much Christian television as some of you do.

I can't think of a better scene than to say, "I've raised my children in the knowledge and the instruction of the Lord to the best of my ability. We've dealt with the forgiveness. We've settled the accounts. The mistakes I've made; we've talked about those and worked through those. Hopefully, the love for the Lord was upon my heart, I've influenced you by impressing this love upon your heart and it's time."

Looking at Amy and saying "I hope with everything that was in me that I loved you as Christ loved the Church. I did the ministry I was called to. I feel the calling that was placed on my life, the calling that was placed on your life, you were able to say I did it." I can't think of a better way to say "Hey, that's it. See ya everybody. Act over. It's finished. I did it. I have run my race. I have finished my course. I've kept the faith."

You know it's what we want for every one of you in here. At the end of your life... I've just seen enough of the bitterness and silliness and ridiculousness that we often live our lives with. For you to be able at the end to say, "I did it."

Jesus was sent to be our Savior. This was it. He was born for this moment and he's able to say, "It is finished." "I have given my life as a ransom for many." As by one man, sin entered into the world and death by sin, but Jesus just took care of that.

7. The Trusting Words

We read this in Luke 23. **46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.**

This scene reminds me of the scene with Jacob in Genesis 49 when he drew his feet up into the bed, breathed his last and that was it. This is a great prayer. Jewish moms, as they were tucking their kids in at night, would pray this prayer. King David, in the Psalms, give us this. Jesus is now, along these lines, saying, "I'm into your hands. Just like a child at night would be, Father, we commit our lives to you; we trust you."

I just love this and this is leading us now into Easter. **I want my last words to be a prayer of trust in God who will raise my dead body from the grave.** I know what I believe. I know how I trust. This is so important. Andy Stanley has been sharing this a lot over the last couple of weeks. I love what he says. Some of you right now are wondering where you stand with Jesus? "What does Jesus think of me?" Andy Stanley says this and it's so powerful. He says, "When someone gives their life for you, you never have to question where you stand with that person." When someone dies for you, when someone takes your place, you don't ever have to wonder what they think about you. He died for you. He gave his life for you. You don't have to question whether or not he will accept you when he died for you.

The question you're asking today as you leave... "Am I ready to die?" I'm looking around. I'm going to say this as a pastor. This isn't meant to be humorous. Some of you might find it humorous. Some of you are closer to this time than others. I'm looking back at some senior friends who are saying, "He's always saying that about us. Every time we walk in on Sunday, he's shocked to see us." There are members of this church that walk in on Sunday and their first line to me is "We're still here." And they don't mean attending Woodland Hills Family Church. They mean they have not taken their last breath.

Do you know why they are able to joke with me about that and smile about that with everything we've talked about today? They are 100% ready. And we want you to have these conversations with your kids this week. Some of you guys... I'm looking around and you're thinking through some things. Share this with your kids. Talk about it with your kids. Maybe not to the point I am with my children. It's getting a little overwhelming for them. They are checking my pulse when they come in every morning to see where I'm at.

We've prepared a little graphic and you can download this on our church website. It's also on social media. These are those seven statements that we just walked through. We want you to be able to walk through this with your kids this week, leading up to Good Friday and leading up to Easter next Sunday.

I'm going to ask you to bow with me. A lot of times at the end of the service, some of you are freaked out about the parking lot. We're going to worship together today. So, I just ask you, as your pastor, not to leave. If you would, worship with us. It's a familiar song for new generations and long ago generations. This song has stood the test and it's in a more modern version. Let's just worship together as we think through the death of our savior. We think through how he lived and how he died and we ask ourselves the question: "How am I living? How will I die? Will I be able to make these statements?"

Will I be able to share this? We want this for you. We desire this for you. We hope you will lean into it this week as we head into a celebration of life in the resurrection of Jesus.

Father, it's in the name of Jesus that we thank you for the life and the death of our savior. May we take to heart the death of Jesus today. May we spend a little time with what he went through for us. May we process that. May we take it into our lives. May we take it into our hearts, so that our last words will reflect the last words of our Savior.

I pray for the one right now that's never placed faith in Jesus. I pray that today would be the day that they confess their sins and acknowledge before you in this place that they are not God and that they have sinned. I pray that they would confess with their mouth and believe in their heart that Jesus has been raised from the dead and that they would place faith in a risen savior today and today would be the day of their salvation. May that be today for many.

We look forward to next week as we celebrate the resurrected Jesus together. It's in the name of Jesus that everyone agreed and said... Amen.