

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#97 – “Ominous Last Words of Jesus to the Jews” – Luke 23:26-31

I. Introduction

A. Last words are always important.

1. Jesus’ last words.

a. Example: John 13:16,20,34; 14:16; 15:10-12

2. Paul also had important last words for Timothy.

a. II Tim. 1:13-14; 2:3, 22; 4:1-3

B. The crucifixion account and the importance of last words.

1. Today’s Text: Luke 23:26-31

II. Exposition

A. Luke 23:26

1. “Led away” – a term with frequent use in the courts.

2. Customary for a criminal to carry his cross.

a. Jesus and exhaustion

3. Simon of Cyrene

a. Common Jewish name

b. Location of town

1. Prominence in Scripture

4. Jesus was born to die – Luke 2:35; 9:22, 31, 51; 13:33

5. He said he would be mocked – Luke 18:31ff

6. Used a parable about himself – Luke 20:9-15

B. Luke 23:27-28

1. Information particular to Luke

2. Jesus had a special connection to women.

a. Luke’s emphasis on “the outsiders”

3. “Daughters of Jerusalem” – public mourners – probably not disciples and city dwellers of Jerusalem. Designation often used of Israel (Micah 4:8; Zeph. 3:14; Zech. 9:9)

4. Female loyalty to Christ is not in dispute.

5. Judgment in view

6. Important last words

a. Take pity on yourselves.

C. Luke 23:29-30

1. “Blessed are the barren”

a. Shocking statement – Luke 21:23; 21:20-21

2. Jesus prophesied Jerusalem’s destruction

a. Luke 11:49-51; 13; 6-9,34-35; 19:41-44; 20:16; 21:20-24

D. Luke 23:31

1. Proverbial statement

Green wood → Jesus vs. dry wood → Israel

Which burns faster and results in a larger fire?

III. Points for Reflection

A. Simon carried Jesus’ cross, and we must do the same.

1. Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:4-5; Luke 9:22-23; 14:26-27

B. Weeping for Jesus is misplaced emotion.

C. Jesus’ sober warning to the “daughters of Jerusalem” regarding a coming judgment reminds pew-sitters to take stock and renew urgency placed upon evangelistic outreach.

1. Revelation 16:15-17; 9:6