

March 22, 2015

## “Eyewitness Views”

Eyewitness: Pastor Branden

Part 5

## “Excruciating!”

*“When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.” Luke 23:33*

*The Crucifixion of Jesus: Matthew 27:32-44; Mark 15:21-32; Luke 23:26-43; John 19:16b-27*

### A. Words....

1. Excruciate: v. 1560s, from Latin *excruciatu*s, “to torture, torment, rack, plague;” from *ex-* “out, thoroughly” + *cruciare* “cause pain or anguish to,” “literally ‘crucify,’ from *crux* ‘cross.’”
2. Words can hurt!
3. Words can heal!
4. Words are powerful when reinforced by your actions!

*“Be careful with your words. Once they are said, they can only be forgiven, not forgotten.” -Anonymous*

### B. Words at the cross...

1. Words can reveal your lack of understanding; you can be hearing but not believing:  
*“Look at you now!” they yelled at him. ‘You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!’”*
2. Words can reveal your callous and hard hearts.  
*“He saved others,’ they scoffed, ‘but he can’t save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him! He trusted*

*God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”*

*“So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”*

3. Words can reveal indifference.

*“So they said, ‘Rather than tearing it apart, let’s throw dice for it.’ This fulfilled the Scripture that says, ‘They divided my garments among themselves and threw dice for my clothing.’”*

4. Words can reveal sincerity and belief.

*“Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.’”*

### C. Words on the cross...

1. Words can offer a deep passion for the hurts of others.

*“Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”*

2. Words can keep our hearts focused on the bigger picture of what is happening in our lives while allowing God to work healing in our lives and the lives of others.

*“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”*

3. Words can help us be more focused on the needs of others than our own needs.

*“When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, ‘Dear woman, here is your son.’ And he said to this disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ And from then on this disciple took her into his home.”*

4. Words can offer promise and hope for future.

*“And Jesus replied, ‘I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.’”*

### D. Words beneath the cross...

*“Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.” 1 John 3:18*

1. Mary the wife of Clopas: No words were spoken or known...just loyalty!  
*Will your actions speak for you? Will they speak of your faithfulness, your devotion, and your willingness to put yourself at risk for others?*

2. Mary the mother of Jesus: She may not have fully understood, but her love was unchanging and unconditional. She believed!

*Are you willing to love unconditionally? Are you willing to love with an unchanging devotion that will continue to believe?*

3. Salome, the sister of Mary and mother of James and John: She loved with a deep love and willingness to let go of her questioning and acceptance of the rebuke she was given.

*Are you willing to love while not letting your past actions overshadow your desire to serve? Are you willing to let go of hurts, misunderstandings, or disappointments? Are you willing to love those who are honest enough to speak truth into your life?*

4. Mary from Magdala, who had seven devils cast out of her: She loved out of deep appreciation and gratefulness.

*Are you loving Jesus, always remembering the sacrifice He made for you? Does your love hunger and thirst to know the One who gave His life for you?*

### What words do you have for those in your world?

I believe in you! I love you! I forgive you! Thank you! You have made a difference in my life! I will never forget! I appreciate you! I am grateful for you! You have inspired me! Thank you for....

### Words have great power!

### How will you use your power today?