

Dying Words

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Introduction: What will your dying words be?

A. Without question the final words of an individual has great weight.

1. When one faces the end of life there is often an honesty that was not found in life. Many will suddenly admit their need of God! (**Prov 1:22,24-31**)
2. When faced with death men see what is really valuable! They will then think of their loved ones.

“Death has an amazing power of altering what a man desires because death profoundly affects his outlook.” - Oswald Chambers

B. There are some who have no chance to utter “dying words.”

1. Death and our final place in eternity may come upon us suddenly. (**Jas 4:14-15**)
2. For our loved ones and friends our “dying words” will be our everyday words before our death. How should we then speak each day? (**Eph 4:29**)
3. We have not learned how to live until we live everyday as doomsday.

“Every man knows he will die, but no one wants to believe it.” - Jewish Proverb

I. Men who faced death unprepared

A. There are some who never saw death coming. (**Lk 12:16-21**)

1. Why should we live as if we will not die? (**Heb 9:27**)
2. How many of you would drive down the interstate with you eyes closed for 5 minutes? Many have believed the lie of some “special time” of opportunity.
3. There is only one way to live: “Be ready, stay ready!” (**Mt 24:42-44**)

“Fear not that your life shall come to an end, but rather fear that it shall never have a beginning.” - John Henry Newman

B. Some saw death coming and made no change.

1. King Saul had made choices over his lifetime that made him a hard, proud man. He would never change and David knew this! (**1 Sam 26:21-27:1**)
2. What did Saul think of at his death? (**1 Sam 31:4**)
3. How many in this audience are stubborn and will not repent before God?

C. Other examples of those who saw their end but never repented.

1. King Herod was another proud man who publicly admitted his sin. (**Acts 12:20-23**)
2. The account of Josephus tells us Herod was immediately stricken but died a few days later. He acknowledged his wrong but never repented.

“One may live as a conqueror, a king, or a magistrate; but he must die a man. The bed of death brings every human being to his pure individuality, to the intense contemplation of that deepest and most solemn of all relations-the relation between the creature and his Creator.” - Daniel Webster (1782-1852)

3. Consider the dying words of atheists.

II. Men who died in faith.

A. Joseph showed an unwavering confidence in God. (**Gen 50:24-26**)

1. The very nature of faith is found in trusting God for the things He said He will do. (**Heb 11:6**)

2. Why did Joseph believe these things? He had the promise of God! (**Gen 12:1-3**)
 3. What if we lived our lives by this kind of faith? (**Mt 6:19-21, 24**)
 4. The descendants of Joseph were influenced by His faith and obeyed him. (**Josh 24:32**)
- B. David gave firm instructions to his beloved son. (**1 Kgs 2:2-4**)
1. What a blessing Solomon received to have such a father as David. I have no doubt that these words never left his heart.
 2. Parents, your dying words for the Lord will have great power when they are backed up by your life. Your children will remember!
 3. Solomon fell away late in life. Did he have time to remember and repent?
- C. Stephen saw God's glory and asked for the pardon of those who hated him. (**Acts 7:55-60**)
1. Righteous men know the value of forgiveness and the folly of revenge. (**Eph 4:31-32; Heb 12:15**)
 2. When we live God's way, we will be involved with others and be builders. Proud, unforgiving men will never be useful with the gospel. (**1 Cor 9:19,22-23**)
- D. Jesus spoke "dying words" at the cross. (**Lk 23:34, 43-46**)
1. Our Lord always thought of others. His death was to give those who hated Him an opportunity to find forgiveness. (**Acts 2:36**)
 2. Jesus ended His life as He lived it by pointing men to God by His actions and His words. He never struck back at those around Him. One thief and the Roman soldiers could see this man was from God. (**Mt 27:54**)
 3. Jesus knew where HE was going and longed for it. Can we live with this same longing? (**Jn 17:1,4-5; 2 Pt 3:12-13**)

III. Men who spoke after death.

- A. We were able to hear some because of divine revelation.
1. Moses and Elijah were able to talk with Jesus about His death! (**Lk 9:30-31**)
 2. The rich man in torment wanted to help his brothers. (**Lk 16:27-31**)
- B. There are others who continue to speak from their example and from our memories!
1. Some speak from their recorded example in the scriptures. (**Heb 11:4; 12:1-2**)
 2. Who do you remember and find great encouragement?
 3. Do you have those memories and still yet have not obeyed the gospel?

IV. What would your final words be if your death came today?

- A. Your words will come from your heart. What kind of heart do you have? (**Mt 15:19-20**)
- B. You will want to give your loved ones a message. Did you live the words that you are leaving to them? (**2 Tim 4:7-8**)
1. If I am the first to go, then I want Yvette, Stephen, Nathan, Emily and my brethren to know that there is nothing more important than serving God!
 2. What are you saying NOW?

Conclusion: Let us live as we wish to die. (**Heb 11:13**)

- A. What changes do we need to make in our priorities? (**2 Pt 3:10-11**)
- B. Here is where real peace is found and real influence is made.