

P.M. OUTLINE
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JESUS' LAST WILL & TESTAMENT

(Luke 24:44-53)

INTRODUCTION

In today's society, we understand how a person's "last will and testament" works.

While we live, our possessions may be distributed in any manner of our choice; however, when we die, possessions are distributed according to the terms of the will.

When Jesus was alive on earth, He distributed forgiveness of sins and salvation in a variety of ways.

After He died, these blessings may be obtained only in one manner and according to the terms of His will, the New Testament.

1. 6 DIFFERENT WAYS JESUS FORGAVE SINS BEFORE HE DIED

- 1) (Mark 2:1-5) (v5) "When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."
- 2) (Mark 10:17-22) (v17) "... Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (v21) "... sell ... give ... and come, take up the cross, and follow me."
- 3) (Luke 7:44-50) (v47-48) "... he sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much ... And he said to her, Thy sins are forgiven." (v50) "And he said to the woman, Thy faith has saved thee; go in peace."
- 4) (Luke 19:1-10) (v9-10) "This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost"
- 5) (Luke 23:42-43) "he said to Jesus, Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus said to him, Verily I say to you, today you shall be with me in paradise."
- 6) (John 8:1-11) (v11) "... Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

2. NONE OF THE CITED EXAMPLES ARE FOR US TODAY

The cited examples are for no one who lived or lives after Jesus' death.

There is one more way Jesus offers forgiveness (salvation), a last way, a lasting way, and it is according to Jesus' last will and testament, the New Testament.

3. WHEN JESUS DIED, HE LEFT A WILL (TESTAMENT)

1) Qualifications for a legal will (testament)

1. Testator (will maker) - (Heb. 9:15) "And for this cause He is the mediator of the new testament ... "
2. Death of the testator - (Heb. 9:16-17) "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator lives."

3. Legacy (something left to someone by a will; bequest; inheritance)

1) (Eph. 1:3) "... blessed us with all spiritual blessings ... "

(Luke 24:46-47) "remission of sins ... preached ... beginning at Jerusalem"

(Acts 2:38) "repent, be baptized ... for the remission of sins ... "

(v40) "... save yourselves ... "

2) (Rev. 2:10) "be faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

4. Heirs - (Titus 2:11) "... salvation has appeared to all men."

5. Terms or conditions (Jesus' will is conditional)

(Acts 2:38) "repent, and be baptized every one of you ... "

(Rev. 2:10) "be thou faithful unto death ... "

6. Witnesses

(Luke 24:48) "And ye are witnesses of these things"

(Acts 2:32) "This Jesus has God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses"

7. Executors - one appointed to carry out the provisions and directions in a testator's will.

The apostles: (Matt. 28:19-20) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations ..."

Those taught: (v20) "teaching them to observe all things I commanded you"

Christians in succeeding generations: (2 Tim. 2:2)

2) The apostles were faithful executors (read Acts of the Apostles)

From (Acts 2:38) forward, the apostles preached the terms of the will, and the terms for forgiveness and salvation were the same for every one.

(Acts 2:38; 8:12-13; 8:36-39; 9:18; 10:48; 16:15; 16:33; 18:8)

3) After the death of the testator, can't change the will (no codicils)

(Gal. 1:6-9) "... preach any other gospel ... let him be accursed ... "

(Rev. 22:18-19) "... if any man add to these things ...

And if any man take away from the words ... "

CLOSE - (2 Thess. 1:7-10)