



A Father's Day Message: 2 Peter 3:1-8

If you were about to face death, what would be your final words? Who would you want present? What in your life that is wrong would you want to make right? It is amazing how in such a short span of time, one can quickly surmise the things that are most important. If there was one more feature in the obituary section that would make it even more powerful it would be the mention of the person's last words. Imagine reading the obituaries and being able to read everyone's last words. Some of the comments would probably be something like this: Forgive your father? "I am sorry for all the hurt I caused." "I will always love you, even when I depart." "Live your life with purpose, time is short." "Marry her and follow your heart." "Don't worry; I am going to be in the presence of God." Wouldn't it be interesting in the obituaries to read the last words?

Here are some last words of some famous people.

Josephine...

~~ **Napoleon Bonaparte, French Emperor, May 5, 1821**

Friends applaud, the comedy is finished.

~~ **Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, d. March 26, 1827**

That was a great game of golf, fellers.

~~ **Harry Lillis "Bing" Crosby, singer / actor, d. October 14, 1977**

My God. What's happened?

~~ **Diana (Spencer), Princess of Wales, d. August 31, 1997**

Oh, do not cry - be good children and we will all meet in heaven.

~~ **Andrew Jackson, US President, d. 1845**

Go on, get out - last words are for fools who haven't said enough.

To his housekeeper, who urged him to tell her his last words so she could write them down for posterity.

~~ **Karl Marx, revolutionary, d. 1883**

I forgive everybody. I pray that everybody may also forgive me, and my blood which is about to be shed will bring peace to Mexico. Long live Mexico! Long Live Independence!

~~ **Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, (Archduke Maximilian of Austria), d. June 11, 1867**

I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have.

~~ **Leonardo da Vinci, artist, d. 1519**

I die hard but am not afraid to go.

~~ **George Washington, US President, d. December 14, 1799**

Wallace, William (1270-1305, Scottish Patriot) "Freedom" [Ascribed to him in the film "Braveheart"; his actual last words, before being hanged, disembowelled, drawn and quartered, are unknown.]

Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit. *From Luke 23:46*

~~ **Jesus Christ**

However, there is never enough time to say all that is on your heart during those last precious moments of life. The best thing you can do is write a letter so you can make sure what needs to be said is said. This was the situation with Peter. He was an older man. He had been thrown in prison by one of the worst emperors when it comes to Christian persecution, Nero. He knew he was about to be executed and he was concerned about what would happen to the church when he left the world. So he writes this letter to illustrate what is important to his heart as an apostle and leader of the church.

His letter consists of four main themes.

1. The way you live is important
2. Let the Scriptures be your guide to God's will
3. Watch out for false teachers within the church
4. The Lord will be back for his people

Here is what Peter says in chapter 3.

This is now the second letter (Many believe 1st Peter was the first one) **that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,**

Today is Father's Day of course. In many ways Peter, who is an older man at this stage of his life is like a father figure to the church. If there is a word Father's want their children to do it is to remember the important lessons they have taught them and not repeat the same mistakes they have made in life. Peter spent considerable time with the church reading the prophets and telling them one day the Messiah will return. As he was preparing himself to die a martyr; the important thing was for them to remember. Remember the predictions of the prophets. Remember the commandment of the Lord that we have shared with you.

Korban is only three and a half years old now, so there are not a lot of heavy things he can understand when it comes to advice. The one thing I tell him when he begins to whine and complain is this. "Korban, don't whine, don't complain, don't make excuses, and people will like you." Every time he whines I try to say this so eventually this saying will come to his attention later in life when he whines and complains. It is all about repetition. This is Peter's second letter he mentions where he stirs the people by a way of reminder.

knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."

Why do Peter's hearers have to remember the prophets and the teachings of the apostles? Because there would be scoffers who would make a mockery out of their beliefs. They would laugh at them for believing that Jesus would come again. They would mock them and make them feel like they were a little crazy. That's what a scoffer does? He or she ridicules what you believe and goes out their way to convince you or anyone that would listen that they are wrong.

For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.