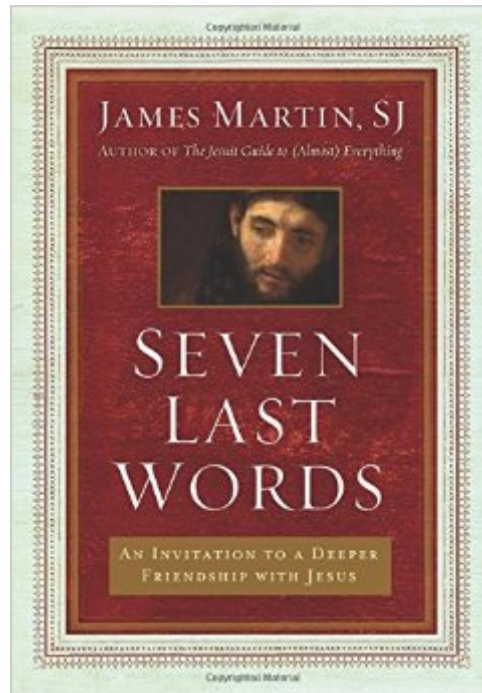


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# Seven Last Words: An Invitation To A Deeper Friendship With Jesus



## Synopsis

Based on his talks at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral on Good Friday 2015, the New York Times bestselling author and editor at large of America magazine offers a portrait of Jesus, using his last words on the cross to reveal how deeply he understood our predicaments, what it means to be fully human, and why we can turn to Christ completely, in mind, heart, and soul. Each meditation is dedicated to one of the seven sayings: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." "Today you will be with me in Paradise." "Woman, this is your son." "This is your mother." "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" "I thirst." "It is finished." "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." With the warmth, wisdom, and grace that infuse his works, Father James Martin explains why Jesus's crucifixion and death on the cross is an important teaching moment in the Gospels. Jesus's final statements, words that are deeply cherished by his followers, exemplify the depth of his suffering but also provide a key to his empathy and why we can connect with him so deeply.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I think that for a lot of us, at least at some point in our lives, faith means dutifully going to Church and mindlessly repeating the same prayers, that is without actually paying attention to what we hear or say. Theological treatises tend to be very intricate and keen on details for lay persons to follow. In between these extremes, there are Father Jim's books on Jesus. Not only that they are very nicely written and always with at least a tiny bit of humour, but they are extremely useful in this one thing:

opening our eyes and ears and waking us up from the mindless trance so that we actually think, actively think, about Gospels, about our prayers and ultimately about our faith.

Jesus understands. For me, this is the central message of Fr. James Martin, SJ's newest book **SEVEN LAST WORDS: AN INVITATION TO A DEEPER FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS**. Meditating on and praying about each phrase brings me closer to Jesus, who is already reaching out to all of us in our human condition. This book is a great resource for Lent and to read throughout the year when facing emotional and physical pain. I particularly appreciate Fr. Jim's historical interpretation and the way he shows us Jesus' humanity and divinity, including Jesus' ministry of joy. This well-rounded picture of Jesus makes him more accessible. This book has brought my prayer life to a new level.

I love this little book and was sorry when it ended. It says much about how to connect when one feels we do not. I wonder how to pray and if God hears us. I think this will help me in the future. We have to really stop and let ourselves be heard. Thank you... .

Father Martin's reflections on Jesus' last words are moving, but more so when compared to our own experiences with these feelings. Each chapter brings to mind more reflections on what Jesus' life might have been like on earth at that time and asks us to reflect on our own actions and thoughts when confronted with similar circumstances today. I agree that it was disappointing when the book ended. It was a great reflection and prayer.

This is a brilliant, inspiring and grace-filled book by the extraordinary Catholic writer and priest Fr. James Martin. Based on a sermon he gave on Good Friday 2015 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, the book succinctly--but with incredible wisdom and perception--explains each of the seven last words (really sentences) of Christ as he hung on the cross. Christians believe that Christ was fully divine AND full human. This little book goes far in explaining this mystery. Christ's humanity, including the agonizing physical suffering of the Crucifixion, his abiding love for his mother, his feelings of abandonment by God and even his thirst on the cross, link him to us in a basic human way. This would be an excellent book to read on Good Friday and can easily be read in a single day (even by not-so-fast readers). Best of all, Fr. Martin writes for everyone--not just Roman Catholics. This book is such a blessing!

The perfect kickoff to my Lenten goal of reading more to further understand Jesus. So glad that God called James Martin to use his exceptional talent and approachable nature to help inspire others. Really great read, made me wish I could have heard these sermons live at St. Patrick's.

I passed this wonderful meditation onto others so that they may enjoy the depth of the spirituality of James Martin, S.J. He brings a depth to these words that gives us an opportunity to delve into the mystery of who Christ is both in his eyes and on our own journey. One of the spiritually brilliant priests in my parish has shared his meditation on Good Friday that kept people in Church praying for another half hour. We are blessed with the guidance of people who have worked hard and enjoyed their relationship with Christ and His people.

What a great book! I just finished reading it and I will read it again. It is perfect for Lent or any time of year you need inspiration. It is easy reading and lifts you up so that you understand Jesus is just like us and understands us very well. I love this book and highly recommend it.

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