

# Famous Last Words

As some famous person, or one of our own loved ones, prepares to cross from this life into eternity, people generally want to know and ask: “What were his (or her) last words?”

We are curious to know the state of mind – or soul – when that moment comes.

Here are some famous last words of those who were about to die:

- Martin Luther, the German professor of theology, composer and monk, repeated three times: “Into thy hands I commend my spirit! Thou hast redeemed me, O God of Truth.”
- His wife, Katherine Von Bora, was less poetic, but just as tenacious, saying, “I will stick to Christ as a burr to a topcoat!”
- John Milton, English poet best known for his epic poem *Paradise Lost*, said goodbye with these words: “Death is the great key that opens the palace of Eternity.”
- Leonardo da Vinci, inventor and painter, said, “I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have.”
- Joe DiMaggio, baseball player: “I finally get to see Marilyn [Monroe].”
- Thomas Edison, inventor and businessman, observed: “It is very beautiful out there.”
- Ludwig van Beethoven, composer and pianist who was deaf by the end of his life, said, “I will hear in heaven.”
- Lew Wallace, author of *Ben Hur*, uttered, “Thy will be done.”
- Michelangelo, Italian sculptor, painter, architect and poet, had words, not for the dying, but for the living: “Through life remember the sufferings of Jesus.”

These last words are ponderable. Have you ever considered what your last words might be?

It’s impossible to improve upon those chosen by Christ as He hung on the cross: “It is finished.”

Although no one will ever speak concluding words that are more meaningful than these, there is still something here for us to emulate. We have each been sent into this world with our own mission. We are each to reflect God’s love in our own way. We have each been given the responsibility to figure out what that way is, and to follow it until the end.

It is living well that allows us to die well. This can be done with or without words.

In the parable of the talents, Jesus said to each of the two loyal servants:

*Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord (Matthew 25:23 NKJV).*

Those are words all of us should want to hear when our journey turns toward heaven.

– Beecher Hunter