

# Good Friday – Passion of the Lord – The 7<sup>th</sup> Last Word of Jesus from the Cross – “Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit”

“Into your hands I command my spirit,” ... the last words of the last sermon given from the pulpit of the cross, and , once again, Jesus the high Priest turns to prayer, to the Psalms of David the king, the 31<sup>st</sup> Psalm, “Into your hands I commend my spirit.”

Some gospels say the last word was not even a word at all, but a loud cry ... and then, silence.

In the Roman Empire, throughout all her far-flung provinces and conquered lands, there was a battlefield decorum observed by all the empire's military commanders, legions and armies. When the battle raged and the outcome was still in doubt, Rome's well-equipped soldiers and leaders could usually outthink, outman and outmuscle any opponent, any opposing force. When the tide of the battle was turning and victory seemed within in the legion's grasp, it was almost as if the Roman commanders would call a momentary pause, gather strength for a final onslaught, and then ... a great roar ... a bloodcurdling shout would rise from the throats of the legionaries. Before the echo of the shout could fade, with a terrifying ferocity, the battle would be renewed, the enemy force routed, and the victory claimed.

“Into your hands I commend my spirit.”

With a loud cry ... with a loud cry ... He gave up His spirit!

What makes you think it was a defeat?

What makes you think the cross was anything less than the greatest victory Love ever claimed?!!

"The strife is o'er, the battle done;

Now is the Victor's triumph won;

O let the song of praise be sung:

Alleluia!"