

It is Finished (6 of 7)

John 19:30

We have spent the last five Sunday mornings considering the seven sayings of Jesus as He hung upon the cross, giving Himself as the ultimate sacrifice to provide redemption for fallen man. We have discovered much about His obedience, His compassion, and His commitment.

This morning we come to the greatest of these sayings. Each saying is important and they reveal much about our Lord and redemption's plan, but of the seven, this one rises above the rest. Here we find, just prior to His death, Jesus cries, **It is Finished**. (In the Greek this is one word, *Tetelestai*.)

For many who looked on that day, Jesus was a failure. Many viewed Him as a blasphemer. Others were likely disappointed and doubtful concerning Jesus. For those who looked on that day, many may have taken these words as a submission to defeat. They may have thought that Jesus had finally given in, realizing that He had failed in what He set out to do.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. Jesus was not a failure. He was not an imposter or blasphemer. He was not resigning to defeat. He was declaring victory! In this simple statement, Jesus serves notice that He has fulfilled the will of God concerning salvation.

I want to take a few moments this morning to consider the **eternal truths** revealed in the statement Jesus made: **It is Finished**.

I. A Word of Accomplishment – **When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.** We must remember that this was not "Plan B." This was not a last ditch effort by God to provide redemption for lost sinners. Things had not gotten out of hand in Jerusalem and God decided to allow Christ to die upon the cross. This was God's plan since before time began. **Christ is the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.**

- Immediately following the fall of Adam, God prophesied that a Savior would come. **Gen.3:15 – And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.** Time will not permit us to consider all of the prophecies that were given concerning the coming Messiah, from His virgin birth in Bethlehem of Judea, to His being the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Judah, and of the lineage of David. Jesus fulfilled each of these prophecies.
- In our previous study we found that all things had been accomplished. **John 19:28 – After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.** It is interesting to note that the word translated **accomplished** is the same

word translated, **It is finished**. The plan of God had been fulfilled and Jesus declared a word of accomplishment, revealing that all had been completed.

I. A Word of Accomplishment

II. A Word of Anticipation – I don't think we would be doing the text an injustice to say that Jesus anticipated an end to the suffering. Little is recorded in Scripture about the actual suffering that Jesus endured. We know that He has borne our grief, having our sins placed upon Him. We know that His beard was plucked from His face. **Is.53:4 – Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.** **Is.50:6 – I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.** We know that Jesus was scourged prior to the crucifixion. The Bible doesn't reveal the details, but history reveals that this was beyond comprehension. A "cat of nine tails" was used to literally rip the flesh from the body of the condemned. That in its self is torment enough, but He was then placed upon the cross to endure the misery that it brought. All of this was endured while bearing the sins of humanity.

- Now, keep in mind that this was the holy, harmless, sinless Son of God. He was the second person of the godhead, dwelling with the Father in eternity past, enjoying the splendor of heaven and the praise of angels. He laid all that aside to become our sacrifice. I think it would be safe to say that this was a word of anticipation. Surely Jesus looked forward to the end of suffering, once again being in the presence of the Father in heaven.

III. A Word of Atonement – As Jesus cried, **It is Finished**, He revealed much concerning our salvation. The word *Tetelestai* literally means "*to finish; to complete a predetermined goal; to accomplish a perfect plan.*" This was a word that was used in a variety of ways in that day. Each usage provides a beautiful example of what Jesus accomplished at Calvary!

- **A Servant's Word** – Spoken when the task had been completed.
- **A Priest's Word** – Spoken when the sacrificial animal had been inspected and found worthy. The high priest declared this at the completion of the events on the Day of Atonement.
- **An Artist's Word** – Spoken when the final touches had been made and the masterpiece was ready to present.
- **A Merchant's Word** – Spoken when all the haggling was over, a deal had been reached, and both parties were satisfied. ¹

I. A Word of Accomplishment

II. A Word of Anticipation

III. A Word of Atonement

IV. A Word of Authority – We cannot forget the reason for all of this. Jesus had not come to check on the affairs of men upon the earth. He had not come to determine the hearts of men. He came with a purpose and that was to provide a means of salvation for sinful men. He came to reconcile us to God. Because of Adam's fall in the garden, all are born in sin and in need of salvation. Jesus came to provide our redemption.

- Ever since the fall of man, Satan has been on the rampage. He continues to seek to deceive and hinder mankind. There had to be a sacrifice made that would appease the righteousness of God. As Jesus declared, It is Finished, He served notice to Satan that sin had been atoned. He had accomplished the will of God and humanity could be reconciled in His blood.
- Many believe that Satan rejoiced at Calvary, but that is not true. In fact, Satan tried to prevent Jesus from going to the cross. It was there that Jesus secured the victory and proclaimed His authority!

V. A Word of Admiration – When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. We cannot consider the precious and powerful saying without recognizing the admiration in it. This was not a statement of apprehension or animosity. Jesus knew that He had been sent to this earth to fulfill the will of God and He was pleased to please the Father. Jn.5:36 – But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. Jn.17:4-5 – I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. [5] And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

- Jesus was pleased that He had accomplished the work that He was sent to perform. He was pleased that the need of mankind had been met in His sacrifice. Jesus did not view Himself as a victim, but as the Victor!

I want to leave us with this thought today. Jesus fulfilled the work that He was called upon to do and He did it with joy. We too have been called upon to labor for the Lord. How will it be when our time has ended? Will we be able to say, “It is finished,” or will we have said prior to that day, “I am finished?” I fear that many don’t finish as the Lord desires. Many give up or give in before their work is through.

2 Tim.4:7 – I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Here the Apostle Paul uses the same Greek word that Jesus used as He hung upon the cross. Will we be able to say at that time that we have finished our course? Will we be able to declare *Tetelestai* when the Lord calls us home? If there is a need in your life, why not bring it to the Lord?

If you have never been saved, Jesus has already accomplished all that needs to be done for your salvation. It is not a “do” salvation, but a “done” salvation. Jesus fulfilled all of this so that you too might be saved!

¹ The Sermon Notebook - http://sermonnotebook.org/new%20testament/John%2019_28-37.htm