

Dead - John 19:28-30
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Death feels so final and defeating. No matter how much we try to put it out of our minds, there is a reality in life that hovers and feels so defeating. As Jesus dies on the cross, it feels as if the enemy has won, and that the Kingdom of Christ has been defeated. The kingdoms of this world have partnered with an evil kingdom to bring a final blow to the Son of God, all hope is lost. So it seems. Unless that is, you study the Gospel texts telling us the story of the death of Jesus, and especially the Gospel of John. As we see the dying moment of Jesus, John is careful to let us know that things are not as they first appear. If we know the entire story, we often think of the death of Jesus as the low point, but the resurrection is the victory. This is not how the text of Scripture views the cross of Christ. On the cross, Jesus is in absolute sovereign control and at this moment defeating all foes, including death itself, and is perfectly accomplishing the plan of His Father.

Our text this week is short, but packed with meaning and implications. First, we are told that Jesus knew that all was now finished. We see this word three times in the text, which will be explained in a moment. Usually, we would read this word as it is being said of a person who is dying and believe that the idea is that life is almost over, that he is almost done, that there is nothing left. Not in this case. What was finished in this case was the glorious purpose of Christ fulfilling all that the Father had commanded so that the life of Jesus was the embodiment of the perfect sacrifice. He had lived the perfect life, and His perfect sinlessness continued through the horrible situation Jesus had endured for the last 15 hours of life. He was betrayed by one of His closest friends, denied and cursed by another, and abandoned by the rest. He went through a mock of a trial that was rigged from the start and full of injustice. He was tried by Pilate who kept declaring Jesus innocent, beaten by Roman soldiers, and then nailed to a cross. From there he was mocked by the crowd and even by one of the other condemned men hanging next to him. Writhing in pain and suffering massive blood loss, Jesus refused to take drugs that would dull the pain, but rather endured the full wrath of the cross. Think about this. How many times would you and I have cursed the people involved, how quickly would we have called down the angels if they were at our disposal. How deep would our expression of rage and hatred run? But Jesus endured it all, completing God's purpose and remaining sinless. He had accomplished the plan. Not only this, but we are told that even his words were a fulfillment of Scripture (second time the word is used), a reminder again that all of the Scriptures point us to one man and one moment. This moment is the fulfillment, not of just a few individual texts in the Old Testament, it is the fulfillment of every word, every story, every prediction. So Jesus gets a sip of diluted cheap wine to wet his throat so that He can make a final declaration.

"It is finished!" is the declaration. Mark tells us that the final words that came out of Jesus' mouth here were made with a loud cry out. Again, first reading, it sounds like the word on his lips is a declaration that life is over, but that is not what the word means. The Greek word here is the word "*Tetelasta*". It is my single favorite word in the Greek New Testament, and if I were ever to get a tattoo (no way, I'm still afraid of getting a shot at the dr) it would be this word. In the Greek, the word means that something has come to its intended goal, brought to perfect completion, accomplished its intended result. The word could be used in the marketplace as a reference to a debt that had been paid in full, in fact, deeds were written on boards, and when the final payment for a debt was paid the lender would write this word across the top of the board, indicating that the full price of debt had been paid. It was used in the military when an army came home after executing the resolve of their king. No, this shout from the cross was not the cry of defeat, it was the bold pronouncement of victory. The death of Jesus is a crazy paradox, as the crucified was the conqueror, the victim was the victor. By dying, Jesus killed death and took the evil serpent from the garden head on defeating evil once and for all. By willingly fully dying on the cross, Jesus is also giving us the clearest display of the character of God, as we see the perfect holiness and love of God expressed in Jesus' death. Christ has made God known, and we do not have to wonder about the character of God or whether we are loved. As a result, the perfect plan of God to save His people is complete, finished, all that was needed had been accomplished. It is finished. The tense of the verb here is called the perfect tense, which carries the idea of

something that happened in a moment, punctiliar action, but the results of that action carry on to the very present. That can preach. Christ died once in time, a moment in history. But the results of that death reach every one of us.

Then Jesus did something that only He could do, He gave up His spirit. Nobody took Jesus' life from Him, Jesus freely gave His life away. Again, reading this in the original language reveals something beautiful. All through the text the Greek word *paradidomai* has been used referring to the handing over of Jesus. Jesus was handed over and betrayed by Jesus to the Jews, the Jews handed Jesus over to Pilate, Pilate handed Jesus over to the Roman soldiers, and the Roman soldiers handed Jesus over to the cross itself. But it was Jesus who handed His spirit over. He gave His life away, and He did this for you and me. We see the Sovereign King handing Himself over to death but this handing over was the defeat of sin, death, hell, and Satan Himself. And we live in that victory if we live under the implications of the cross.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Isaiah 61	Isaiah 62	Isaiah 63	Isaiah 64	Isaiah 65	Isaiah 66	Obediah 1

Reading from this past week: John 19:28-30

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: John 19:31-37

Family Worship

Jesus Messiah - Chris Tomlin version here

<https://youtu.be/zwo8uGfDCwE>

Gospel Project

Story: Paul wrote that Christians are joined together by faith in Jesus.

Main Point: Paul wrote that we are saved through faith in Jesus alone.

Big Picture Question: Why does God want us to obey Him?

Answer: Obedience is our response to God's love for us.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-31

New City Catechism

Question 10: What does God require in the fourth and fifth commandments?

Answer: Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in worship of God. Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother.

Verse: Leviticus 19:3

Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God.

Scripture

John 19:28-30

*What did Jesus mean when He cried out "It is Finished!"?

*How did Jesus fulfill the Scriptures and the purpose of God in His death?

*What is unique about the way Jesus died in verse 30? What does this tell us about the identity of Jesus and the meaning of His death?

*How is Jesus' death actually a victory?

Prayer

*Pray for our single moms and the event we have planned for them this week.

*Give thanks this week to Jesus for the victory He won at the cross.