

# “It Is Finished”

## John 19:23-42

Message by Michael J. Barnard

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**Teaching Aim:** To examine the circumstances surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. To see the sovereignty of God at work in the crucifixion of Christ as God worked through the sinful actions of men to bring about His plan of eternal redemption for His people. To look at the many Old Testament prophecies fulfilled through Christ’s death on the cross. To recognize the courage of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus in retrieving the body of Jesus for burial. To understand as Christians, we too are called to come out of our comfort zone and live our lives boldly for Christ.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)**

#### **Part I: The crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday (John 19:23-30)**

1. It had been a long and busy 24 hours for Jesus. After His arrest He had gone through six trials, three religious and three civil. Jesus had stood before Annas, Caiaphas, the Jewish Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod, and Pilate again. In every religious trial, quite simply, Jesus was framed. In every civil trial, Jesus was found innocent. The Jewish religious leaders refused to release Jesus and blackmailed Pontius Pilate into crucifying Christ. What can we learn about the Jewish religious leaders from their actions? How about Pontius Pilate?
  
2. The Roman execution squad was made up of a team of four soldiers (**vs. 23**). (See **Acts 12:4**) What kind of bonus could they count on? The tunic was the long undergarment that stretched from the neck to the feet of Jesus. How did they decide who would get this piece of clothing (**vs. 24**)? Why is it important that the soldiers cast lots? (See **Ps. 22:16-18**)
  
3. What is “a Messianic prophecy?” What makes **Psalm 22** such an important Messianic prophecy? Who wrote **Psalm 22**? How many years was this Psalm written before the crucifixion of Jesus Christ? How many years was it written before crucifixion was invented as a method of execution? (Hint: Search online)
  
4. Which four women are mentioned in **verse 25** as standing near the cross of Christ? Which famous mother was believed to be the sister of Mary? Who were her sons? (Commentaries) Who were the children of Mary, the wife of Clopas? Who was Mary Magdalene and how did her life change after coming to Jesus? (See **Luke 8:1-3**) Note: Sometimes the people who have fallen the most are the most grateful, this was certainly the case with Mary Magdalene. What are some ways that your life has changed since coming to faith in Christ?

5. For Mary, the mother of Jesus, this was the moment that Simeon had prophesied so many years ago at the dedication of her baby Jesus. (See **Luke 2:34-35**) What do you think was going through the mind of Mary at this very moment?
  
6. What thoughtful move did Jesus make as He approached death (**vs. 26**)? Why do you think Jesus gave this responsibility to the Apostle John and not to His half-brothers? (See **John 7:3-5**) Did Jesus address His mother rudely in **verse 26** by calling her "Woman?" (See **John 2:3-4**) How do you see **Exod. 20:12** being fulfilled in **verses 26 & 27**? What are some ways that we can honor our parents today?
  
7. What can we learn about the effects of crucifixion from **Psa. 22:14-18**? How does **verse 28** relate to this description? Have you ever tried to talk when your mouth is dry? Does it help to moisten your tongue and lips? Note: This is exactly what Jesus did.
  
8. What kind of wine did they offer Jesus (**vs. 29**)? How did they get this "red" wine to Him? What connection do you see between **verse 29** and **Ex. 12:22-23**? Note: In each case the Passover Lamb is involved. In Exodus we see an Old Testament "type" or foreshadow. In **John 19** we see the real Passover Lamb die. In both cases there is only one way to be delivered. According to Jesus, what is the only way that we can be saved? (See **John 14:6**)
  
9. The wine offered to Jesus in **verse 29** was not the powerful sedative offered to Him earlier to deaden the pain; that wine Jesus turned down. (See **Matt. 27:33-35a**) Why did Jesus turn down the powerful sedative? Does this make all medications wrong for Christians?
  
10. Did Jesus receive the wine offered to Him in **verse 29**? The sour wine was the kind of wine that the common people drank, Jesus used it for the purpose of moistening His lips so that He could speak His final words more clearly. What did Jesus say once His lips had been moistened? (**vs. 30**)? What happened immediately afterwards? (See **Matt. 27:50**) It is important to note that "Jesus gave up His spirit," nobody took it from Him. (See **John 10:17-18**) What can we learn about the redemptive work of Christ from **Mark 10:45 & 2 Cor. 5:21**?

## Part II: The hypocrisy of the Jewish religious leaders and fulfilled prophecy (John 19:31-37)

1. The crucifixion took place on the day that we call "Good Friday." Why do we call this horrible day "good?" What were the Jews preparing for on this day (**vs. 31**)? (See Commentaries) Why did the Jews ask Pilate to have the legs of the three men being crucified broken? Why was it important to get them off the crosses? (See **Deut. 21:22-23**)
2. Whose legs did the Roman soldiers break in **verse 32**? Why was it necessary for the soldiers at times to break legs? What did the soldiers find when they came to Jesus (**vs. 33**)? Warren Wiersbe writes, *"It is remarkable that the Roman soldiers did not do what they were commanded to do – break the victims' legs – but they did do what they were not supposed to do – pierce the Savior's side! In both matters, they fulfilled the very Word of God."* How do you see the sovereignty of God at work in the actions of the Roman soldiers?
3. What did one soldier do instead of breaking the legs of Jesus (**vs. 34**)? Why did he do this? (See **Zech. 12:10**) Was this done out of spite or was it to make sure Jesus was dead? What immediately flowed out of the body of Jesus once the pericardium sac had been ruptured? What did the flow of blood and water prove? Note: When John wrote at a later date (i.e., A.D. 95), he was addressing new heresies that had broken out within the church. Gnosticism and Docetism both denied the reality of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. This one act by a Roman soldier proved that Jesus really did die in the flesh while on the cross.
4. How did Pilate react to the report from the soldiers that Jesus was already dead? What did he do next? (See **Mark 15:44-46**) According to **verse 35**, who witnessed this event and gave testimony to it? Why do you think John focused so much on the fact that the legs of Jesus were not broken? (See **Exod. 12:46; Num. 9:11-12**)
5. Understanding Christ's death on the cross is important if we are to understand the depths of our sin and salvation. Jesus was crucified at 9:00am in Jerusalem, the time of the morning sin offering, and He died at 3:00pm, the exact moment of the afternoon sin offering on Passover Day. Jesus is the true Passover Lamb. What is a Biblical "type?" Note: For an Old Testament type to truly be a type, it has to be identified as such in the New Testament. Is Jesus identified as the Passover Lamb anywhere in the New Testament? (See **1 Cor. 5:7**)

6. People's lives were radically transformed by meeting Jesus. Whose life and eternal destiny was changed in **Luke 23:39-43** through meeting Jesus? According to **Mark 15:37-39**, who came to faith in Christ through the events that day? How were the lives of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus forever changed by boldly stepping forth on Jesus' behalf? What are some ways that your life has been changed since coming to faith in Christ?
  
7. What Old Testament Scripture was fulfilled by the piercing of Jesus (**vs. 37**)? (See **Zech. 12:10**) Is this piercing once again referred to in the Book of Revelation? (See **Rev. 1:7**)

### **Part III: The bold move by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus to bury Jesus (John 19:38-42)**

1. What can we learn about Joseph of Arimathea from **verse 38**? Where was the village of Arimathea located? Joseph was a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, how had he responded to the mistreatment of Jesus before by the religious leaders? (See **Luke 23:50-51**) What special request did he make of Pontius Pilate?
  
2. Who was the second individual to step forward and help Joseph with the burial of Jesus (**vs. 39**)? Where have we seen this individual before? (See **John 3:1-16; John 7:48-52**) By doing this, the men fulfilled Bible prophecy and kept the body of Jesus out of Gehenna, the perpetual fire at the garbage dump. How much would their actions cost these men?
  
3. Courage is not the absence of fear, it is the determination that something is more important than fear. How do we see this in the case of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus? How do we find Joseph and Nicodemus preparing the body of Jesus for burial (**vs. 40**)? Does **verse 40** prove that the ancient Shroud of Turin is a fake? (See **Matt. 27:59**) Why or why not?
  
4. Is there any significance to the fact that Joseph of Arimathea's tomb was newly dug and close to the cross (**vs. 42**)? Is it possible Joseph prepared this tomb for Jesus at the last minute? (See **Isa. 53:8-9**) According to **verse 42**, what day was the body of Jesus laid into the tomb? How can we see the sovereignty of God at work on this dark day in history?

### **MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- God is sovereign in every circumstance, even in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.
- **Psalm 22** is a remarkable prophecy about crucifixion written by King David 1,000 years before Christ and 700 years before the invention of crucifixion as a style of execution.
- As the disciples of Jesus fled (all except John), the women remained with Jesus to the end.
- Jesus gave up His spirit, nobody took it from Him. (See **John 10:17-18**)
- The Scripture was fulfilled, "*Not one of His bones shall be broken.*" (See **Exod. 12:46**)
- It is important to note the soldiers violated Pilate's order by not breaking the legs of Jesus.
- The spear in Jesus' side proved that Jesus really did have a physical body, contrary to the false teachings of the Gnostics and Docetists who were prevalent in John's day.
- Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus at great personal cost buried Jesus, by doing so they kept His body from being thrown in Gehenna (the perpetual fire at the garbage dump).
- In giving Jesus his new tomb, Joseph unknowingly fulfilled the prophecy in **Isa. 53:8-9**.