

5 2 W E E K S
O F G R O W T H

Give it a Year

Week 04

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John 4:34

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. (NIV)

John 19:28-30

“Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When He had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. (NIV)

When Jesus shouted these words from the cross, "It is finished", nobody understood what He meant. Between the shock and awe and tears and (for some) excitement, nobody truly understood those words that He spoke while hanging there.

I'm sure the Roman soldiers thought, this radical revolutionary is finished. "It's finally over with. He's finished, He's gone."

I'm sure the religious leaders, who had Him put on the cross, thought, "Our competition is finished. We don't have to worry about this Messiah guy anymore. He's out of here. He's finished."

I'm sure Pilate, the governor, thought, "My political headache is finished. I'm not going to have to worry about this guy anymore."

I'm sure even the followers of Jesus, probably were left confused. They may have thought, "It's finished. Our dreams and our ministry is died. The Kingdom isn't here. The Romans haven't been overthrown and now we're finished."

And I'm sure even the devil must have thought, "The Son of God is finished. I have won. I killed God."

Everyone was left confused.

However, Jesus didn't say, "I am finished". He said, "It is finished." So, what was finished? His suffering? Yes. His pain? Yes. The humiliation of dying on the cross like a criminal? Yes. But so much more...

By dying on the cross, Jesus fulfilled every single prediction and prophecy that God promised throughout the ages (2 Corinthians 1:20).

By dying on the cross, Jesus satisfied all that God required for justice and payment for sin. (Romans 8:3-4)

By dying on the cross, Jesus paid the debt that we owed to God. (Colossians 2:14)

By dying on the cross, Jesus defeated the fear of death. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

By dying on the cross, Jesus destroyed Satan's power to control us. (Colossians 2:15)

All of it is FINISHED!

As we prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week, I encourage you to allow your thoughts to continue to drift to the beautiful words spoken by Jesus, “It is finished” and apply this scripture to every area of your life this week.

I no longer need to walk in stress this week because... “It is finished.”

I no longer need to walk in insecurity this week because... “It is finished.”

I no longer need to walk in sin or addiction this week because... “It is finished.”

I no longer need to walk in shame this week because... “It is finished.”

I no longer need to walk in guilt this week because... “It is finished.”

I no longer need to walk in unforgiveness this week because... “It is finished.”

I no longer need to walk in anger this week because... “It is finished.”

Friends, say it out loud... **“IT IS FINISHED.”**

READ: John 19 & 20

REFLECT:

- How does Jesus' death and resurrection affect your daily life?
- Does this year's Easter week feel any different from last year?
- What are you allowing in your life to be "FINISHED" on the cross and completed by Jesus?
- Are you living a life of freedom from sin or are you still carrying the cross of guilt/shame/unforgiveness in your life?

PRAYER:

Father God, we Thank You for sending Your Son to this earth to die for us. We thank You that You didn't keep Him dead but raised Him to life seated next to You. Thank You Jesus for finishing it all on the cross. Thank You for taking on our sins so that we can know our Heavenly Father and have a life connected to Him. We can never thank You enough for all that You have done for us but, show us how to live everyday of our lives as a thank You gift to You. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.