

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:17-30

1. Do you have a bucket list? What's on it?

A bucket list is not meant to be "doom and bloom," but rather a collection of unique ideas you'd like to accomplish in your life.

(Have someone read the opening paragraph on page 100 of the PSG.)

2. On what types of unfinished business might a person focus if given a terminal diagnosis? (Update your will. Communicate with friends and family. Share Christ with someone who has been on your heart. Get your finances in order. Etc.)

"Unfinished business" could include bucket lists that help people avoid dying with regrets.

Today's Scripture passage focuses on the completeness of Jesus' life. He left no regrets because He left nothing undone. He perfectly finished His work as Savior.

Recall that Jesus had been slapped, spit upon and flogged with a "cat of nine tails" before he was released to be crucified. Isaiah 52:14 tells us "He was so disfigured that He did not look like a man..." We cannot begin to imagine the suffering He endured for our sin. We are as guilty as the Jewish leaders and Roman soldiers who took part in this horrific scene.

Crucifixion was the most painful and degrading punishment in the ancient world. In some ways, it had been around for centuries, but the Romans "perfected" it as a tool of torture, humiliation, and execution.

RAISED! Read John 19:17-18

The synoptic Gospels record that the soldiers forced Simon of Cyrene to take up Jesus' cross. The indication is that Jesus was too weak to carry it, most likely from the great loss of blood—He was about to bleed to death.

1. Why wouldn't they want Jesus to die before they crucified Him? (From Rome's point they wanted people to see what happened to people who rebel against Rome. Of course, from God's point of view it was to fulfill Scripture.)
2. What details do we see here about the crucifixion? (John simply says, "they crucified Him.")
3. What picture would come to the mind of John's readers in his day with the word "crucify?"
4. Have you seen a movie depicting Jesus' crucifixion?
5. What impressed you most when seeing it acted out?
6. How would you describe the horror and shame of the crucifixion?
7. How might a first-century resident react to seeing a cross as jewelry or decoration?
8. What images would be similar and shocking in our culture? (An electric chair. Hypodermic needle. Swastika. Etc.)

Read John 19:19-22

1. Why did Pilate word the sign as he did? (It was a jab at the Jews and a warning to anyone else claiming to be king.)
2. Who was actually the first to proclaim Jesus as king? (Pilate!)
3. Why do some want to discredit the claims of Jesus? (It doesn't make sense to a lost world that Jesus would die for them and that their "good works" are nothing but filthy rags.)

PLANNED! Read John 19:23-24

Jesus was stripped, and His clothes were divided among the soldiers, yet another humiliating aspect of crucifixion.

1. Why was it important for John to point to Psalm 22 when recounting Jesus' crucifixion? (This fulfilled the Scripture in Psalm 22:18. The tunic was like a garment worn by the High Priest. Perhaps pointing to the fact that Jesus is our High Priest! —Heb. 4:15)
2. How did the soldiers' actions reveal that this crucifixion was just business as usual for them? (Their actions were as they would be for anyone crucified. Unknowingly they fulfilled Scripture, showing once again that God is in control, and this was all part of His redemptive plan to the smallest detail!) God had planned for this moment since before time began. So, everything was playing out just as He intended.

HONORED! Read John 19:25-27

Note the contrast here between the soldiers' cruelty and Jesus' compassion, even in His darkest moment.

1. How would you express how Mary may have been feeling as she watched Jesus die on the cross? (I can't begin to imagine.)

As the oldest son, Jesus was responsible to care for His mother, who was likely widowed. Jesus' half-brothers were not yet believers and Jesus chose John most likely for that reason, to care for His mother.)

2. How does Jesus caring for His mother give us a practical model for honoring our parents? (It shows that He is our perfect example in every area of life.)

FINISHED! Read John 19:28-30

1. How does this passage point to Jesus' humanity? (He was thirsty. There is no record of Him having anything to drink since the night before, and with the loss of blood, thirst is natural.)

The Gospel song "I Thirst" puts it this way: "He said 'I thirst,' though He made the rivers. He said 'I thirst' though He made the seas. 'I thirst' said the King of the ages. In His great thirst He brought water to me."

2. Was the soldier's response an act of compassion? (No, it was yet another example of cruelty by the Romans. Using a sponge as they did was like using a toilet brush. Cruel indeed!)
3. What was Jesus' final declaration from the cross? (It is finished. In Greek one word, *tetelestai* meaning "Paid in Full." The ransom had been Paid in Full!)
4. How does this passage prove that Jesus was in full control until the end? ("He gave up His spirit." They didn't kill Him when all had been accomplished "He gave up His spirit.")

Jesus did everything necessary for our salvation. We can do nothing on our own. His death brings us life!

5. What can we do to help others know and understand this reality?

SUMMARY AND CHALLENGE!

We will never fully understand the extremes to which Jesus went to reconcile us to the Father and make us His sons and daughters. But we do know His unspeakable sacrifice is sufficient for anyone who will call on His name.

1. What are some concrete ways we can demonstrate that Jesus is our Lord and King?
2. Are there areas in which you still reign?
3. What keeps you from surrendering those areas to Him fully?
4. What actions do you need to take to overcome the reasons you identified?

What we have studied about the cruelty of the Romans is simply them carrying out God's judgment for our sin. Every slap, every soldier's spit in His face, every thorn piercing His brow, every lash with the whip, the nails piercing hands and feet, the spear piercing His side was God's judgment against sin and was meant for me!