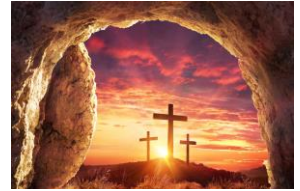


GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide IT IS FINISHED!

John 19:28-30 (SB 04.17.2022)



Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

These verses give us a portrait of Jesus' final moments. I love how John points out that 'Jesus gave up His Spirit.' No man took His life. He willingly laid it down. He was in complete control of the entire situation. He demonstrated that when they came to arrest Him and they asked if He was Jesus. He said, 'I Am' and they all fell over backwards. Jesus didn't lose His life. He gave it. But before He did that, He said a few final things. People's last words tend to be memorable. When a person knows their time is short, they measure and weigh each word carefully. Jesus was just 33 years old when He died. He was young. Some might say that He was taken in the prime of His life. But His last words don't reflect the heart of a man filled with regrets about all the things He didn't get to do. Even though He was young, He said that He had finished the work that God had sent Him to do. He spoke seven times in total from the cross. Each statement was important. Even the order in which He said things was important. Today we will see the importance of Jesus last words. Let's get into our study...

1. What spoke to you from Pastor Daniel's sermon this Easter?
2. What are some famous last words that have impacted you?
3. What about those words challenged or encouraged you?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 19:28-30

Frank Sinatra's last words were, "I'm losing it." Italian Renaissance painter Raphael's last word was, "Happy." Sir Winston Churchill's final words were, "I'm bored with it all," while Emily Dickinson is known to have said, "I must go in, for the fog is rising." Last words are significant—they provide perspective on the person's life and reveal what was truly important to them. With their last few breaths, those whose time on earth has come to an end may share what their lifetime has taught them. Some words are inspiring. Some are tragic. All are valuable. All of Jesus' words have great import for us, but perhaps none are more impactful than the ones we recall Him uttering from the cross. The importance of this final moment in Jesus' ministry, the focus upon His great task, the gravity of the situation and its relevance for us, have a way of drawing our attention. Among Jesus' final words, perhaps the ones that inspire us the most are His words of victory. In John 19:28-30, we see the final breaths of Jesus's incredible life and hear the final words of His amazing ministry.

1. What did Jesus know during His last moments on the cross? How did His knowledge compare and contrast with the perception many likely had?
2. What Scripture is John referring to being fulfilled in verse 28? Why was fulfilling Scripture so important to Jesus?
3. Three simple words: "It is finished." What exactly was Jesus referring to as "finished"?

"It is finished" refers not only to the suffering and earthly life of Jesus, but also to the task of bringing salvation to the human race. The words "it is finished" are translated from the Greek "tetelestai," which appears in the perfect

BREAKTHROUGH! in 2022

tense. The perfect tense implies the action is made complete, or completely done—even the grammar of the text signifies the full completion of Jesus’ work.

4. What does it mean that Jesus “gave up his spirit”?

Jesus is portrayed in this passage as being in control of the time of His death, just as He had been pictured as sovereign throughout His ministry. John painted a beautiful picture at Jesus’s death, illustrating that even what appears to be tragic is not out of God’s control, and is indeed a part of His divine plan. For John, the point of the story is not that Jesus was killed, but that He fulfilled His life’s purpose. Jesus won the greatest victory for all mankind.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 23:44-47

In addition to John’s account of Jesus’ final moments on the cross, Luke shares some additional details of that momentous occasion.

1. What are some additional details of Jesus’ final moments that we glean from this passage in Luke?
2. What’s the significance of the unnatural events that occurred, including the curtain of the sanctuary being split down the middle?

The curtain that was torn in two refers to the curtain at the entrance of the holy of holies, i.e., the place where once a year on the day of atonement the high priest would enter and offer sacrifice for the sins of the people. This miraculous occurrence bears significance in three ways: (1) the act of judgment on Israel for their unbelief in who Jesus was; (2) the opening of salvation to all through the death of God’s Son (cf. Heb 9:6–28; 10:19–22; Matt 27:51–53); (3) the ending of the ceremonial and ritual laws of the Old Covenant. Upon Jesus’ death, the blockade between God and His people was removed. Now, because of Jesus, all can enter into God’s presence. We gain access to the Father through the Son (cf. Eph. 2:18; Heb. 10:19).

1. What do we learn about the relationship between Jesus and His Father in these final moments?

Even at death’s door, Jesus submitted to the will of His Father. Jesus, knowing that He had completed His departure from this world, committed His spirit, i.e., His life, into the Father’s hands. In so doing, Jesus is a model for His followers (cf. Acts 7:59). The sovereign plan of God involved Jesus’ submission to the Father.

1. Read Luke 23:47-49, the responses of those in the crowd to Jesus’ death. What testimony did a Roman centurion give when Jesus died? Discuss what the centurion may have seen in Jesus to bring him to that conclusion.
2. What does the response of people in the crowd suggest about what they were feeling as they left the scene of the crucifixion?
3. How should these events influence us today as we seek to live for Christ?
4. What do these verses teach us about victory even over death?

Even in His crucifixion, it is clear that Jesus was in control of all that was taking place, and all that was taking place was in accordance with and the fulfillment of the Father’s plans. Jesus resolutely set out to give His life as a ransom for many. And after finishing His mission, Jesus committed Himself into His Father’s hands and breathed His last breath. No one took Jesus’ life from Him—He gave it freely, just as He said He would. And in doing so, He gave us victory over Satan, sin, and death.

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

When Jesus said 'It is finished,' He was letting us know that the payment and penalty for sin had been paid in full. Sometimes we try to pay for our own sins by making sure that our good deeds outweigh our bad deeds. That's religion. Religion says this is what you must DO for God to accept you. Christianity is not a religion. It's a relationship. Christianity says, everything has already been DONE for you. It is finished! You can't earn your salvation. The only way you can be saved is by placing your faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. God wants you to know that it's done! Every sin you have ever committed has been paid for and nailed to the cross. That abortion you had. That affair. The addiction. The habit. The anger. The jealousy. It's all been nailed to the cross!!!

1. From what has Jesus' death on the cross saved you and given you victory?
2. Given Jesus' finished work, how do Christians often live as if Jesus' work is not finished?
3. How can you use the testimony of Jesus' crucifixion in telling others about Christ this week? (Plan to share with your group how the Lord helped you witness to someone)

PRAYER - Praise the Lord for His plan for victory and the sacrifice He made to make it. Thank Him for the redemption He has offered us through Christ, and the victory that He has given us in so many ways as a result. Ask Him for strength and clarity to make this victory known to others this week.

"Having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross." (Col. 2:14)