**John 19 - The Finished Work on the Cross**



Today we focus on The Crucifixion. We look at Jesus’ life in his final moments leading up to the cross, less than a week after he was anointed in Bethany and rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

For 3 ½ years he has been teaching, healing, doing miracles, prophesying and fulfilling prophesies. All along the way, He alluded to what the end of the journey would be like and eventually told them outright three times that *“ Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.”* and now,… it was happening.

The entire journey of his life lead to this moment where He is crucified, which is in fact, along with the Resurrection, the most significant moment in human history.

Jesus’ death on the cross is central to everything we believe.

Jesus blood on the cross is the only way our sins could be forgiven. There was no other way *(Jesus even asked the Father if there was another way, as He agonized in Gethsemane). This showed us clearly in this moment that Jesus was both fully God and fully human.*

Through his death he broke the *power of the Devil* over death.

**Heb 2:14** “For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who *had*the power of death”.

*We can’t imagine what it was like to live in a time when the Devil has so much power.*

Last chapter, when Jesus was brought before Pilate, he recognized that Jesus was innocent, and offered to release Jesus, because it was customary to release a prisoner on the Sabbath, but the crowds chose another prisoner, Barabbas instead and shouted for Jesus to be crucified!

**John 19:1 “19**Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.”

*(Roman flogging with whips was so brutal, that Sometimes the flogging alone would kill the victims. The law was 39 lashes, any more was said to be lethal.)*

**2**The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe **3**and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

**4**Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” **5**When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

Fulfilling the scripture:

***Isa. 50:6*** *“I offered my back to those who beat me,
    my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.*

**6**As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

**7**The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

**8**When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, **9**and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. **10**“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

**11**Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

**12**From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

**13**When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). **14**It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

**15**But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

**16**Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. **17**Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

*THE CROSS: Possibly just the Horizontal Piece, which by itself is an enormous amount of weight.*

*Did Jesus stumble carrying the cross? The Bible does not mention it, but it is certainly possible.*

*Crucifixion was a COMMON manner by which the Roman government carried out humiliating and excruciating public execution. (Not just Jesus, possibly hundreds of thousands died this way, men and women).*

*Even though it is described in our songs as wondrous, wonderful and something to be cherished, it was feared and abhorred by the Jews. Even today it is despised and known only as an “execution Stake” by Jewish People.*

**“**They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”).”

*Likely a public place outside the city. Currently believed to be the Church of the Holy Sepulcher OR a polluted hill near a Bus Station property a few blocks North of the Damascus Gate.*

**18**There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

**19**Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: jesus of nazareth, the king of the jews. **20**Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. **21**The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

**22**Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

*(This was the label placed on the cross, indicating the crime. Pilate intentionally wrote “King of the Jews”, it upset the Jews and they wanted it changed. He responded, “what I have written, I have written” (this was his attempt to assert some level authority over them, after they manipulated him into crucifying what he believed to be an innocent man).*

**23**When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

**24**“Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.”

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

“They divided my clothes among them
    and cast lots for my garment.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2019&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26850a)]

So this is what the soldiers did.

**25**Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26**When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2019&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26852b)] here is your son,” **27**and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. **28**Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” **29**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. **30**When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head **and gave up his spirit.**

*He Died!*

**31**Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. **32**The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. **33**But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. **34**Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. **35**The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. **36**These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” *(Psalm 34:20)*

**37**and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”*(Zech 12:10)*

### The Burial of Jesus

**38**Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. **39**He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.

**40**Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. **41**At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. **42**Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. <>

*Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Council (Sanhedrin), and Nicodemus was the Pharisee that Jesus explained the gospel to in John 3 (Nic at night). It’s very possible that both were secret believers in Jesus and that’s why they put their reputations on the line before the Jews and the Romans to give Him a proper burial.*

Let’s look back to the moment Jesus died on the cross, and what He said before he did.

**30 “**Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

*Jesus said, “It is finished.” …Then He died!*

***What was finished?***

***His life? His teaching? His ministry?***

***Yes, but more than that.***

***It is what we call “His finished work on the cross”***

Jesus’ death completed the work of salvation for all who would believe.

**1st Cor. 1:18“**For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

***[Preaching to non-believers on the beach/boardwalk – Only those who receive and believe are God’s Children , and only those who are “born again” will enter the Kingdom of God.]***

Jesus’ finished work on the cross paid the price for our sins once and for all. No longer is mankind bound to a temple sacrifice system and law that Peter said, “neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?”.

It was complete. The law was fulfilled and the temple sacrifice was no longer needed.

In fact, Mark’s gospel tells us;

**Mark 15:38**“The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”

*The veil of the temple was ripped in half from top to bottom (symbolizing the end of separation of God and man, and the need for sacrifices in the temple)*

*This was very significant because the need for temple sacrifices had now been fulfilled, and the presence of God was not confined only to the temple, but accessible to everyone, everywhere.*

*The temple was the center of the universe for those who worshipped the One True God. The temple consisted of the outer courts, the Holy Place and the “Holy of Holies”.*

*It was the place that God said He would appear so it separated from the rest of the temple by a very high, thick woven curtain, no one could go past it ever (other than the High Priest, once a year to offer the blood of the sacrifice).*

*When it was mysteriously torn in two from top to bottom, it was the ultimate declaration that Jesus’ blood satisfied the “Righteous requirement of the Law”. Whatever Jesus did in His suffering and dying on the cross, he did it correctly and paid the ultimate price for our sins.*

“*Christ’s finished work on the cross” means several things to those of us who believe;*

* Redemption
* Propitiation
* Justification

These were only made possible by Jesus’ death on the cross.

* **Redemption:** Means “to buy back” through the payment of a price. It was commonly used to describe the transaction to secure the freedom of one who had fallen into slavery through war or through debt. Jesus paid the price for our salvation on the cross.
* **Propitiation** (“atonement”) The law required a blood sacrifice for our sins. During Yom Kippur, it would be the blood of a goat that would be the propitiation, Jesus’ blood atoned (satisfied) this requirement *once-and-for-all!*

Romans 8:3-4 “God sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, **4**in order that the *righteous requirement of the law* might be fully met in us”

* **Justification**: This is a legal word, a verb that comes from the noun “made righteous.” The result of the cross is that we are justified “made righteous” by Jesus’ death. This is the basis of our doctrine of “Justification by faith” (salvation simply by believing). “Justified” – *“Just as if I’d never sinned”*
* For Redemption
* For Propitiation
* For Justification

These were only made possible by Jesus’ death on the cross.

There’s *one more*.

It’s in some ways more *personal,* and less *religious-sounding*,

RECONCILIATION

God is our father, and more than anything, desires to be in a love relationship with us, His children.

That’s how it was before sin entered the world and separated us from Him.

He longs to be *reconciled* with those whom he created to be in relationship with Him.

Jesus’s death on the cross accomplished that!

**2 Cor. 5:15, 17-21**

**“15**And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

…

 **17**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

**18**All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19**that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them.”

*Because of Jesus’ death on the cross, we are blessed with a reconciled relationship with God the father, no longer separated by sin, but made completely new in Him .*

*This is the good news of the finished work of the cross!*

*This is not just for us to hold for ourselves, but for us to share with a world that desperately needs God and to whom God passionately wants to be reconciled with.*

(next verse…)

**2 Cor. 5:19**… “And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **20**We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. **21**God made *him who had no sin* to *be sin* for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Because of Jesus’ finished work on the cross, we are;

* *completely redeemed*,
* *completely atoned*,
* *completely justified* in Him,
* and *completely reconciled* to God the Father.

The cross is not just something we think about during Good Friday or communion, it needs to be central in everything we do.

Not just for;

* Redemption
* Propitiation
* and Justification

but for RECONCILIATION,

so that we can enter into a **reconciled relationship** with our Heavenly Father,

and invite others into that relationship as well!