

“It is Finished”

(Series: CrossWords; Message Seven)
John 19:28-30

*Laying low, seeking out the poorer quarters;
Where the ragged people go; Looking for the places; Only they would know...
Going home; Where the New York City winters; Aren't bleeding me;
Leading me; Going home...
In the clearing stands a boxer; And a fighter by his trade;
And he carries the reminders; Of ev'ry glove that laid him down
Or cut him till he cried out; In his anger and his shame;
"I am leaving, I am leaving"; But the fighter still remains... (The Boxer; Paul Simon)*

A LONG WEEK

A. It has been a long week since the **donkey ride** into Jerusalem on Sunday...

1. Jesus offered himself as the **Passover Lamb**; they wanted a **warrior-king**
2. He endured the **humiliation** of the mockery of multiple trials
3. He was given a Roman **scourging** and **nailed** to a cross

B. Jesus was **silent** - except for seven simple words...

1. His final word was “*Tetelestai*” - “**It is finished!**”
2. Is this final “word” a cry of **defeat**? No, it’s a shout of **victory**

A LAST WORD

A. 19:30 - “*When he had taken the wine, Jesus said, ‘Finished’* (“*Tetelestai*”)”

1. It means, “*I’ve accomplished what I set out to do; I finished it; it’s done!*”
 - a. Jesus said it in the **perfect tense** - the work is done, its impact will continue
 - b. Jesus said it in the **passive voice**; “*It is finished,*” not “*I am finished*”
 - c. The Hebrew is **nishlam** (passive of **shalom**) means “**peace has been made**”
2. This word actually needs no **introduction**

B. **What is finished?** What is made whole, completed, consummated?

1. The **Great Revelation** of the Love of God to the world

“No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only...has made him known”
(John 1:18)

2. The **Great Reality** of Truth in History (The Mission of Messiah)

“Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world...” (John 1:29f)

3. The **Great Reconciliation** of the World with God

“For God s loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, tat whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

4. The **Great Rout** of the Devil for Believers

“Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.” (John 12:31)

5. Jesus’ work is done: the law has been **fulfilled**; the ransom has been **paid**; the sting of death has been **removed**; the church has been **planted!**

6. What’s “finished?” The **entire plan** of God for your and my redemption

“My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work” (John 4:34)

“He took up our pain and bore our suffering...he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:4-5)

C. The picture of Jesus on the cross is an amazing picture of **God’s love**

HIS LOVING WORK

A. John 19:30b - “*And he bowed his head...*”

1. In Homer’s Iliad, “bowed head” is a symbol of **affirmation**

[Thetis] “Promise me now this thing in very sooth and bow thine head thereto, or else deny me...that I may know...”
[Zeus] “I will bow my head to thee, that thou mayest be certain...”

2. In bowing his head, Jesus “affirms” his gifts of his **finished atonement** for us and his **empowering Spirit** for his Church

B. John 19:30c - “*and he handed over his Spirit*”

1. This is the **last** in a long series of handovers
2. The “*Lamb of God,*” now “*hands over his Spirit*” to his new family at the foot of the cross for their **mission** in the world

C. When it was finished, God added the **punctuation** of his approval

1. The ground **shook**. Graves were **opened**. The temple curtain was **torn** in two
2. The **Roman centurion** was convinced this was the Son of God!
3. In three days, the Father will **resurrect** his Son

“Lifted up was he to die; “it is finished” was his cry. Now in heaven, exalted high; Hallelujah - what a Savior!”

D. And then **battle** is finally **over**. Done. Finished!

1. “**Well done, my good and faithful son! Come home!**”
2. “**Rest well, sweet Jesus!**”