

## 7 Last Words

### 6. "It is finished." (John 19:30)

#### John 19:25 through John 19:29 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup>Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" <sup>27</sup>Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*.

<sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" <sup>29</sup>Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth.

#### Introduction:

More than 2000 years ago, Jesus of Nazareth knew his hour was coming. Many times in his discussions with his disciples, he told them his death was coming. He told them how he would die. He told them how long he would be dead. He told them how they were going to react to his death. And he told them he would rise again.

From the 6<sup>th</sup> hour to the 9<sup>th</sup> hour, he slowly breathed out his earthly life. But during that time, when words are few and precious, the Bible records seven things Jesus said from the cross:

1. Father forgive them, for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34).
2. Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43).
3. Eli Eli lama sabachthani? ("My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?", Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34).
4. Woman, behold your son: behold your mother (John 19:26-27).
5. I thirst (John 19:28).
6. It is finished (John 19:30).
7. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit (Luke 23:46).

We believe these sayings are significant. We also believe it is our duty to make the cross of Christ relevant for this generation. Next week is Resurrection Sunday. For the last 5 weeks we have been examining the seven last words or sayings of Christ.

We began with "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Next, we examined "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." Thirdly, Reverend Jackson shared from the saying "Eli Eli lama sabachthani? ("My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"). Forth, we continued with "Woman, behold your son: behold

your mother.” Last week, we discussed “I thirst.” Today as we near the close of this series, we find that Jesus says “It is finished.”

### **Introduction:**

The word used for finished means to end, to complete or accomplish. It can also mean to make, fulfill, or to pay. This same word is used in verse 28 when it says that Jesus knew all things had been accomplished.

Luke, the writer of Acts of the Apostles uses this word in chapter 13.

### **Acts 13:29 through Acts 13:30 (NKJV)**

<sup>29</sup>Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took *Him* down from the tree and laid *Him* in a tomb. <sup>30</sup>But God raised Him from the dead.

The imagery that this word reveals for us is the image of a person who is reaching a goal. This word creates a sense of accomplishing a task or fulfilling one’s destiny. At this crucial moment on the cross, “it”, whatever “it” was, is finished. So this morning we will talk about goal, the journey, and the glory.

### **Jesus had a goal.**

The goal was to save the world from the wrath of God.

### **Romans 5:6 through Romans 5:11 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup>For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. <sup>10</sup>For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup>And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Before Jesus ascended to the cross, we were in a lot of trouble. Don’t be mistaken; we were all enemies of God. We were made enemies because of our sins. What is sin? It is the violation of God’s law. It is missing the mark. Imagine an archer firing at a target and missing the bull’s-eye. There is a perfect mark, but we didn’t quite make it.

Sin is what happens when we fall short. James says to know what’s right and not do it is sin. Paul says in Romans 14:23 that whatsoever is not of faith is sin. The Bible

declares that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. John says if you say you have not sinned, then you are a lie and the truth isn't in you.

Why am I spending this time talking about sin? It's because the word tells us that the wages of sin is death. Have you ever lied? Have you ever set out to intentionally deceive anyone? Then you sinned and became an enemy of God. You earned death by eternal fire in hell.

Have you ever stolen anything? It could have been a piece of bubble gum from the store or office supplies from your employer. You sinned. You became an enemy of God. Have you ever had pre-marital sex? If so, it's a sin called fornication and it made you an enemy of God. You have earned a place in hell.

Have you been involved in homosexual relationships? The Bible says that's a sin. Have you ever coveted the property of others? That's covetousness and it's a sin. Have you failed to honor your parents? Were you disrespectful? That's a sin. You are an enemy of God. Have you ever consulted a psychic? If so, you are in sin. God told his people to never consult with psychics, wizards, mediums or anyone like them.

Have you been a busy body, a gossip, or a tale bearer? Have you given false witness concerning someone? If so, you are an enemy of God. You have a place in a lake of fire. Have you ever destroyed someone else's personal property? You know, like when you keyed their car or slashed their tires? That's a sin and the Bible declares we must repay in full.

We earned death! We would all, every one of us be sentenced to spend eternal life in hell. We would all be justifiably subject to death at any time. There would be no justification for allowing us to live even one day past our sins. Because of our sins, every person born on this earth, needs a savior.

In order for us to be at peace with God, someone had to live a perfect life. Someone had to live without sin, fulfill the prophecies found in scripture, and pay the ultimate price of death on our behalf. That was the goal. That was the "it" in "it is finished." It was the work of redeeming of mankind from destruction.

Jesus never lost site of his goal. Throughout his life, he was driven to the cross. When he was a boy he said, I must be about my father's business. When he was baptized he told John to allow it because he must fulfill all righteousness.

He told the people he came to seek and to save that which was lost. He said he must die and rise again. In one episode, his drive toward his goal is so strong that he rebukes Peter and calls him Satan.

**Mark 8:31 through Mark 8:33 (NKJV)**

<sup>31</sup>And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. <sup>33</sup>But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

It was never a question of what Jesus was sent to do. The cross was God's plan for our salvation. It was God's solution to our sins. It was the only way we could get back to God.

The book of Romans declares sin came by one man and that by one man Jesus Christ salvation came into the world. Without the cross there is no hope for mankind to be at peace with God. There is no way we can become complete and perfect. Without Jesus, our salvation could not be finished.

To get there, Jesus had to make a journey.

**Jesus made a journey.**

In order to reach any goal, we must all make a journey. Jesus was no exception. His entire life was a journey toward the cross. Every detail was well orchestrated by the Father to position the Son to be both savior and Messiah.

Some of the intricate details that dot the landscape of his journey include:

- The timing, location, and circumstances of his birth.
- His sojourn in Egypt.
- His place of residence; being from Nazareth.
- The way he spoke in parables was foretold also
- Isaiah spoke of his ministry in Galilee
- The journey included details like being sold out for thirty pieces of silver.
- And don't forget all of the details we have discussed for the past 5 weeks.

These instances along with the miracles and mighty works all validate the life and ministry of Jesus. They were all stops along the way in his journey to purchase our redemption. It is important for us to understand the significance of the path God chose

for Jesus because it sheds light on the journey we must all take as we strive to be more like Jesus.

Every step of the Christian journey is important to God. Every detail of our lives of faith is important in determining who God wants us to be. God is deliberate and purposeful. He doesn't do anything by chance.

Because of the way God operates, he gets the most out of us. He brings out the best in us. He gets the greatest value out of our time on earth. Every episode of our lives can be used at any time by God for his will.

**Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> A man's heart plans his way,  
But the LORD directs his steps.

As we try to navigate the waters of our lives, we must recognize God is not going along in our journey. Instead it is we who are following **his** steps.

**Psalms 37:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD,  
And He delights in his way.

God is leading and guiding us because he has bought us with a price. We are no longer our own. He can do with us what he pleases.

As a result, we may find along the way God will stop us by some places we didn't intend to visit. We may encounter some people we didn't intend on meeting. We may have some circumstances that we would like to change, but it's all a part of the journey that God has ordained for our lives.

Even in Jesus' journey, God led him to make some stops along the way. He stopped by the wilderness and had an encounter with the devil. He made a stop by Zacheas' house to have dinner.

He stopped to heal a blind man. His disciples wanted to know why the man was born blind. Jesus said it was so he could heal him. He stopped by a funeral and raised the dead. He went for a boat ride and calmed a storm. He stopped in Samaria and met a woman by a well. Jesus was walking in a crowd and met a woman with an issue of blood.

He was on his way to the cross, but he stopped by and raised Lazarus from the dead. He healed the sick. He preached the good news. He fed the hungry. He made the lame walk. He taught the masses. He did many things that God had already ordained as part of his journey.

He did all of those things and still accomplished his goal. I say all of this to tell you **“Don’t rob yourself of the journey.”**

I know there are some situations that seem fruitless to you, but God is ordering your steps. There are some stops we will all have to make on our way to glory. There are some people we have to meet with and share the gospel.

There are some situations where God will have to count on us to represent the kingdom. There are some trials we will all have to endure that are designed to make us stronger and validate our faith.

Our journeys will be filled with stories about the people we had to work with. There will be a lot of stories about the places we lived or the struggles we faced. God wants to use our journey to develop us. He wants to mold us into his image and sometimes it requires a few setbacks and disappointments to get the job done.

There are no shortcuts to success. There are not quick fix plans for maturity. Don’t deny yourself the benefit of the journey. Don’t always look for the easy way out. Don’t trade anything for your journey.

**God got the glory.**

### **John 17:1 through John 17:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, <sup>2</sup>as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup>I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

In this passage, Jesus tells God, he had finished the work, God sent him to do. He uses the same word for finished as before but it’s an active form of the word. There are some scholars who believe at this point he had accomplished his active ministry of teaching, healing, and miracles. Then he enters his passive ministry of suffering for our sins.

What I want to focus on here is the statement that Jesus makes. He says “glorify me with the glory I had from the beginning”. In order for Jesus to come down from heaven and save mankind, he had to become one of us. The Bible says ...

### **Philippians 2:5 through Philippians 2:11 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup>but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word which was with God and was God, became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus took off his glory, came down to our level, made his journey, humbled himself unto death, and was restored to glory. I know it doesn't look like it now, but there is something glorious in every believer. There is something that God has given us that he can use to bring glory to his name.

### **1 John 3:2 through 1 John 3:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup>Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

It doesn't look like it now, but there is glory inside of you. God knows what he has in store for us. He knows what he has put in us. He knows what makes us special in his eyes. From the very beginning, he already purposed glory in our lives. We should be like Jesus and press towards whatever goal God has for us. We should desire for him to reveal his glory in our sufferings.

The glory is found when we allow God to mold us into our full potential. He can bring out the gifts and talents he placed in us. He can use them to impact the world. The Bible declares he was made perfect or complete in sufferings.

### **Conclusion:**

Our lives will stay the way they are if we don't have goals. We will never be victorious if we don't have the ability to finish. We must finish over and over again in our lives to be successful.