

The Final Word (John 19:16-42)

Why is the death of Jesus on a cross so vital to Christianity? What exactly did it achieve and how should we respond? John 19:16-42 answers these questions by inviting us to read the unmistakable sign placed on the cross, to see the beautiful thread of prophetic fulfillment about the cross and to hear the final word of Jesus from the cross.

1. Read the unmistakable sign (John 19:16-22)

V18 just says it. John doesn't get into the gruesome details of crucifixion. It was common for the sentence to be written on a sign that would hang around the neck or on the cross itself.

Jesus is the *true* King.

This is how King Jesus will conquer sin, death and evil (for all nations). Hebrews 2:14-15

2. See the beautiful thread (John 19:23-37)

There's what some have called a "scarlet thread" woven throughout the pages of the Bible.

V18 "*one on either side*" = Isaiah 53:12; Psalm 22:16

V23 They "*cast lots*" for his clothes. = Psalm 22:16-18

V28 "*I thirst*" = Psalm 69:21; 22:15-18

VV33, 36 "*they did not break his legs*" = Exodus 12:46

V29 "*a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch...*" = Exodus 12:22

V34 "*pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out water and blood*". Jesus *really* did die.

Also a picture of the life and cleansing only found in Jesus. Hebrews 1:3; 10:12-14; 1 John 1:7

V37 "*they will look on him whom they have pierced.*" = Zechariah 12:10-11; Rev 1:7

Jesus is the *true* Passover lamb. 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

3. The final word (John 19:30)

Literally, "*It is accomplished!*" or "*It's done!*" = complete; fully realized.

Ancient invoices have been found with this very word written over them. "Paid in full" Colossians 2:13-15

4. Faith that risks it all (John 19:38-42)

V35 Written so that you (the reader) may believe! You and I are pulled into this scene.

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read John 19:16-42. What stands out to you and why?
2. What is ironic about the sign Pilate wrote? Why are the religious leaders furious? (VV19-22)
3. There's a "*scarlet thread*" woven throughout the pages of the Bible. What/who does it point to? Have you ever thought of the Bible as one story with a unifying theme running throughout it? John wants us to see this event as fulfillment of Scripture. Where does he specifically point this out?
4. What is "the picture of Jesus" that emerges from John 19? 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:14-19
5. What is "the final word" Jesus screamed? What was he declaring? Read Colossians 2:13-15. For those who place their faith in Jesus, what happened to the debt that stood against us?
6. There's nothing that needs to be added or even *can* be added to the "finished work of Jesus" – yet, in what ways do we attempt to add to it still? What does it look like to "*rest*" in Jesus' finished work? Can you give some examples in your own life? What obstacles get in the way?
7. Read Hebrews 2:14-15, 1 Peter 3:18 and 1 John 3:5. According to these passages what did the death of Jesus achieve? What can you do this week to let these truths soak into your heart and begin to affect you?
8. What were Joseph and Nicodemus risking by asking for Jesus' body and burying it? (VV38-42) How are you challenged by their actions?
9. According to John 19:35 why is this account written? See also 1 John 4:1-4

Take a moment to consider what Jesus went through in order to say, "*It is finished!*" Pray our lives would be increasingly be shaped by this "*final word*" - and that we would rest in it. Pray we would go on to live in a way that risks everything in order to honor Jesus.