

Title: It Is Finished

Text: John 19:23-30

Let's turn in our Bibles to John chapter 19. Because this is GOOD FRIDAY, I would like to look at some of the people that we find around the cross. John chapter 19 beginning with Vs 23....(READ Vs 23-30)

PRAYER

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(2C) It is interesting to consider some of these people who were on the hill of crucifixion. I am not going to examine all of them. Just those mentioned here in John.

(1D) First of all, I would like you to notice the criticism and commercialism of the soldiers. Vs 23.."The soldiers, therefore, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece, and they said, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it."

As I read this, I thought, "WOW! that is a fulfillment of prophecy." It comes from Psa. 22:18.."They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

But, on the other hand, can you imagine these soldiers, in that moment, knowing that Jesus had done nothing, he was without fault, knowing that back in the Judgement hall they had tortured him by scourging and beating, and then watching Him on that cross dieing in pain. It amazes me that they could sit in front of that cross and cast lots for his clothing. HOW CAN MEN DO THE THINGS THEY DO?

Well, the Bible tells us that it was a fulfillment of prophecy. And that is why they did it. But, it is just amazing to think that they would do this. Knowing that He was innocent. Knowing what they had done to Him. And yet, now, they are involved in commercialism. The attitude of these soldiers was *Pure* commercialism.

But, are we any different? We have our Easter Bunny..Easter eggs..new dresses and outfits....The commercialism of Easter....

(2) Secondly, I want you to see the concern of the women. Vs 25 says, "But there were standing by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clpas, and Mary Magdalene."

What a group of ladies. You know, they were precious to the ministry of our Lord. The Bible teaches us that these ladies are the ones who accompanied Jesus were ever He want.

You say, "How did Jesus and his disciples cook and prepare their meals?" That was easy. : these women were along. Didn't you know that? The bible says so. And how beautiful to watch them, here, at the cross because they wouldn't leave, until they knew His body was taken care of. They even went with Joseph of Arimathea to the tomb to make sure the body was correctly prepared for burial. And they, later, brought the spices to put on the body. They cared for Jesus.

By the way, who was Mary's sister? Without going into great detail let me just share this with you. ^{Her name} ~~I believe she~~ is Salome (Sa-lo-me) Salome is the wife of Zebedee. Zebedee is the father of James and John. Therefore, John is a cousin of Jesus.

Do you understand, now, why Jesus gave his mother into the care of John? It was his cousin. They were there at the cross.

(3) The third thing I notice is the care of his mother as seen here in Vs 26 and 27.

Jesus saw his mother. What a moment of love and compassion. Jesus in all of his agony and suffering, mared beyond recognition, watching his mother in front of that cross. Can you imigine the grief and the heartach in her life?

And Jesus looking at here ~~and~~ and seeing her pain and knowing that she was about to be left alone. The Bible says when Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom He loved, his cousin, John. He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son."

John was the only disciple who didn't die as a mryter. He lived to be an old men. John took care of Mary. Both of them are buried, by the way, in Epheses. And Jesus looking down from the cross with great compassion said,

"Woman, behold, your son. And son, behold your mother." How beautiful.

In that one moment he cared about that little detail.

(3) But, also, I want you to see the plan of God in Vs 28 to 30. The plan of God. The plan of God that was behind this crucifixion.

(1) I see it, first of all, in his comprehension of all things. Verse 28 says, "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished." He knew everything. Jesus, our saviour, was the eternal God manifested in human flesh. He was fully aware of everything that was taking place. And I see the wonderful plan of God because Jesus was willing to go to that cross. Nobody put Him there. He ^{wanted} ~~want~~ it all to happen. He knew all things.

(2) Then secondly, I see the plan of God in the fulfillment of scripture. Vs 28 says, "in order that the scriptures might be fulfilled."

The details of how the scripture was fulfilled is amazing. Knowing, as we do today, that the O.T. was in existence some 200 years before Christ. It had been translated into Greek a good 100 years before Christ. And all of these great prophecies, 30 of them fulfilled during Holy Week, even down to the time when he said "I am Thirsty."

We read in Psalm 69:21 "they gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

And the scripture was fulfilled in that moment when Jesus said: "I Thirst."

Now, wasn't Christ thirsty all along? Hay, listen, if you know anything about Roman crucifixions, you know they did anything to have a drink. But you see, ^{Jesus} ~~Christ~~ knew at one moment in time he was fulfilling scripture. Knowing all things...knowing what the scripture says, he said, "I Thirst." And they gave him exactly what the Bible predicted they would give to him...Vinegar or sour wine.

(3D) Then third, I see the plan of God through the climax of redemption.

Vs 30 says, "After he had received the vinegar, he said, IT IS FINISHED." It is accomplished. It is done.

I read in John 17:4, Jesus said in this prayer to the Father, "I glorified thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do."

It is finished. It is done. God's plan of redemption was done. The payment for sin was accomplished. The penalty of sin was paid for. The penalty of death, on man, who was God in flesh, died some 1900 years ago, and paid the penalty. You and I do not have to pay for our own sins. PRAISE GOD...

We do not have to work our way to heaven. PRAISE GOD... All we have to do is to believe that Jesus, in that one moment of time on the cross, paid for all our sins. In that one moment of time, he died in our place. Believe that and you will be saved, says the Bible. *STW*

(4D) I, also, see the plan of God in the commitment of His Spirit to God the Father. In this text it simply says that He gave up the spirit. But in Luke chapter 23 verse 46 it says that "Jesus crying out with a loud voice said, Father into thy hands I commit my spirit." And having said this, he breathed His last."

Again, by a tremendous **T**estimony on the cross, revealing that it was all the plan of God the Father. "INTO THY HANDS, I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."

Dear friends, Jesus died both spiritually and physically. That is hard for us to understand. How could He, who was God in flesh, die. God didn't die. But in his flesh he experienced a real physical death. Exactly like we will experience physical death.

There was a separation of his personality, his real person, from the body. It was a real physical death.

But, it was, also, a real spiritual death.

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL DEATH?

Spiritual death is when a person is physically alive but his sins have separated him from God so that God does not hear him. And in that one moment on the cross when Christ bore all of our sins, he experienced spiritual death. Dying for us, in that one moment of time as Jesus cried out: "My God, why have you forsaken me."

And I cannot help but think of I John 2 verse 2 where John says, "Jesus is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world." WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PROPITIATION? The word means, "MERCY SEAT." It refers back in typology to the O.T. tabernacle. And on that ARK in the Holy of Holies was the MERCY SEAT. And the high Priest on the Day of Atonment was to place the blood of the sacrificed animal on that MERCY SEAT to atone, to cover the sins of the people. So that God's judgment would not fall upon the people.

And so Christ, in one moment in time, was that MERCY SEAT fulfilled. The blood of Jesus shed on the cross through His own death he took all the sins of the world and He bore the judgment of them, the wrath of God was on Him, the Bible says. Thus, there is no wrath, there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Praise God.

The question is: ARE YOU IN JESUS? If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, if you have accepted the fact that Jesus died in your place for your sins, YOU ARE IN CHRIST. That is your position.

You see, God ask us to believe him and accept Him. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. And believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved, says the Bible.

I trust you all believe that. If you do not, then believe today. May Good Friday be the day of salvation for you. The day you enter the family of God.

LET US CLOSE IN PRAYER