

John 19:25-37

Tonight's discussion will revolve around 3 sayings of Christ from the cross. We'll consider each one briefly as part of these final moments before His death.

1. Read John 19:25-27, "**Woman, behold your son!**" "**Behold your mother!**"

This is an expression of Christ's compassion and care for His mother even during the horrific experience of His crucifixion. The disciple Jesus speaks to is John himself. From this point forward, John will be responsible to take care of Mary - as if she were his own mother. (This obviously implies that Joseph had died by this time.)

2. Read John 19:28-29, "**I thirst!**"

This statement has several layers of significance.

First, it demonstrates the real humanity of Christ. Here was a true Man suffering and dying on the cross. He felt all the symptoms of death approaching - including this intense thirst.

Second, it fulfilled Scripture regarding the suffering of the Messiah. There are several Messianic references in Old Testament passages like Psalm 22:15, "**My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.**" and Psalm 69:21, "**They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.**" These Psalms were expressions of David's sufferings but they ultimately pointed to the suffering of Christ Himself.

Third, Jesus received this final drink to prepare for His final words. We love the way one author puts it:

"Jesus said, 'I thirst,' from the cross because He wanted His lips and throat moistened to utter one final victorious shout before He died. The death of Jesus Christ finished His work of redemption, atonement, and reconciliation. Through Christ's substitutionary and sacrificial death on the cross, the Lamb of God paid our debt and took away our sin. Our ransom complete, Jesus, with a resounding voice, wanted all people to hear these words—words that still ring strong today: 'It is finished!' (gotquestions.org)

3. Read John 19:30, "**It is finished!**"

Praise God for this declaration of triumph! Notice how Jesus doesn't say "It will be finished when My people do their part." He doesn't say, "It might be finished someday if the church finishes what I started." He says "**It is finished!**" with a sense of completion regarding His own work. In Christ's mind, nothing is left to chance. Our salvation is absolutely according to works - just not ours! Everything is based on Christ's work on our behalf!

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Discussion: What exactly was finished here? What specifically did Jesus have in mind when He shouted this? What does it look like to live in this reality?

Thoughts: *Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice for sinners. There are simply too many OT prophecies being fulfilled here to reference all at once. This is the Lamb of God taking away the sins of the world. This is the perfect High Priest offering the perfect Sacrifice to God on behalf of His people. This is blood atonement, propitiation, reconciliation, and redemption being accomplished in the Person and work of Jesus. These are some answers...take some time with your group to think through other angles of this profound statement!*