

The Seven Last Words of Christ

The Sixth Word: Victory

John 19:29-30

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March 20, 2008

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Introduction

Herbert Lockyer, in his book titled *All the Last Words of Saints and Sinners*, says,

The last words of both saints and sinners about to enter eternity, what they had to say before their stammering tongues lay silent in the grave, demands our deepest attention and most earnest concern. If, when the soul is face to face with eternal realities, true character is almost invariably manifest, then we can expect the lips to express glorious certainty or terror concerning the future.¹

For the past five Good Fridays we have been examining these so-called “last words” of Christ.

By studying the last words of Christ we do learn a great deal about the true character of our Savior. After Jesus was nailed to the cross he spoke seven short phrases before he died.

Tonight, on this Maundy Thursday, we come to the sixth word Jesus uttered, which is found in John 19:29-30:

²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:30)

Lesson²

The Lord Jesus has become man. He has lived an absolutely perfect life of self-sacrifice and obedience. He has been despised

¹ Herbert Lockyer, *All the Last Words of Saints and Sinners* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1969), 12.

² The material in this lesson is adapted from Charles H. Spurgeon, *Christ's Words from the Cross* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1961), 86-104.

and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. His enemies have been many. His friends have been few.

He is at last handed over to those who hate him. He is arrested while in the act of prayer. He is betrayed by one of his very own disciples.

He is arraigned before the spiritual and secular courts.

He is beaten beyond recognition. He is robed in mockery, and then unrobed in shame.

He is declared innocent, and yet he is delivered up by the judge who ought to have preserved him from his persecutors.

He is dragged through the streets of Jerusalem which had killed so many of his prophets who had come before him, and now would cover itself with the blood of the prophets' Master.

He is brought to the cross. He is nailed to the wood. He is hanged up for all to see. He loses blood. He dislocates his bones. He suffocates and can hardly breathe.

His own disciples desert him. People mock and ridicule him.

Even his Father deserts him, so that he cries out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46).

He looks everywhere, and there is no one to help him. He casts his eye around, and there is no one who can share in his suffering. He must suffer alone.

On and on he goes. He is determined to drink to the very last dreg of that cup which cannot pass from him if he is to fulfill his heavenly Father's will.

At last he cries, "**It is finished**" (John 19:30).

And then, a little while later, he dies.

What did Jesus mean when he cried out, "**It is finished**"?

Much can be said, but I want to draw your attention to just two points this evening.

I. All Types, Promises, and Prophecies Were Fully Accomplished in Jesus

First, all types, promises, and prophecies were fully accom-

plished in Jesus.

Those who are acquainted with Greek know that the word, “It is finished” is *tetelestai*. But did you know that the word actually occurs twice within three verses?

The first occurrence of *tetelestai* is found in John 19:28, where we read, “After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now *finished*, said (to fulfill the Scripture), ‘I thirst.’”

This helps us to see the meaning of Jesus’ sixth word clearly. When Jesus said, “**It is finished,**” the entire Scripture, from first to last, in the law, the writings and the prophets, was finished and accomplished in him. Every type, every promise, and every prophecy was fully accomplished in Jesus.

Jesus is a prophet like Moses, and yet a champion like Joshua.

Jesus is both Aaron and Melchizedek, David and Solomon, Noah and Jonah, Judah and Joseph.

Jesus is not only the lamb that was slain, and the scapegoat that was not slain, the turtle-dove that was dipped in blood, and the priest who slew the bird, but he is also the altar, the tabernacle, the mercy seat, and the shewbread.

Jesus is the one of whom it is said, “All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him” (Psalm 72:11, *NIV*), and yet, “He was despised and rejected by men” (Isaiah 53:3).

And he is the one in whom there was no sin, and yet the one upon whom the Lord poured all the sin of many.

When Jesus said, “**It is finished,**” he meant that all the types, promises and prophecies of Scripture were fully accomplished in him.

II. Jesus Totally Destroyed the Power of Sin, Satan, and Death

And second, Jesus totally destroyed the power of sin, Satan, and death.

Jesus met Sin in his life and also on the cross. Horrible, terri-

ble, all-but-omnipotent Sin nailed Jesus to the cross. But in that deed, Jesus also nailed Sin to the cross.

There they both hung together—Sin and Sin’s destroyer.

Sin destroyed Jesus: he died on that cross.

But by that very death Jesus destroyed Sin: the power of Sin was forever destroyed by Jesus’ death.

Next came the second enemy, Satan. He assaulted Jesus with all of the hosts of hell. Calling up every demon from every quarter of the universe, he said, as it were, “Come! Come quickly! Here is our great enemy who has sworn to bruise our head; now let us bruise his heel!”

They fired their hellish missiles into his heart. They exploded their evil thoughts into his mind. They emptied their venomous poison into his veins. They spat their false insinuations into his face. They hissed their devilish fears into his ear.

But there the Lord Jesus stood his ground. He stood alone, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, hounded by all the dogs of hell. He withstood volley after volley from the wicked arsenal. He parried every attempt to get him to falter. Like David against Goliath, Jesus in the end stood victorious, and then cried out, **“It is finished,”** and sent every demon and Satan fleeing to hell.

And Jesus also met Death and destroyed the power of Death on the cross. Death killed Christ on the cross. He sent his fiery dart, as Evangelist Christmas Evans put it, which he struck right through Jesus, till the point fixed itself in the cross, and when he tried to pull it out again, he left the sting behind. Death was disarmed.

Jesus then took the keys of Death and said, “Death, I take these keys from you. You must live for a little while to be the warder of those beds in which my saints shall sleep, but give me your keys!”

And today, Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven with the keys of Death hanging on his belt. And he is waiting for the hour when the Father says to him, “Now! Go! Go and bring all the elect to us in heaven!”

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And the Archangel shall sound the trumpet, and the dead in Christ shall rise from the grave, and all the elect will join our Savior in the sky to spend all eternity with him in glory. And Death will be forever gone!

Conclusion

Friends, this is what Jesus meant when he said, **“It is finished.”**

All types, promises and prophecies were fully accomplished in him.

And he totally destroyed the power of sin, Satan and death.

Let us thank God for what Jesus accomplished on the cross on our behalf. Amen.

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*To bring people to Jesus Christ
and **membership** in his church family,
develop them to Christlike **maturity**,
equip them for their **ministry** in the church
and life **mission** in the world,
in order to **magnify** God's name.*

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