



Frisco First Baptist Church

LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS • IT IS FINISHED • JOHN 19:29-30 • 4/13/2025

MAIN POINT

We are in a two-week series that will lead into Easter. No LIFEGroups on Easter (April 20th). Also, the next week (April 27th) we will dedicate the Finishing Rooted to Grow projects (Welcoming Lobby, Expanded Worship Seating, and Upgraded and larger Playground). So no LIFEGroup and only a 9:30 service. More details to come.

Jesus proclaimed, "It is finished," bringing completion to Jesus' pain of redemption, God the Father's plan of redemption, and the payment of redemption on our behalf.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

In our culture, what crimes would one have to be convicted of in order to face the possibility of receiving a death sentence?

What is the execution of a criminal meant to communicate to the general public? Does it succeed in doing so? Why or why not?

Only the most heinous of crimes, usually those that involve taking the life of another, can lead one to face execution. Proponents of capital punishment emphasize that it serves as a formidable crime deterrent to the public. In effect, it is said to communicate, "If you commit these crimes, we will use our power to do this to you." Roman crucifixions held similar purposes, but something else was taking place in Jesus' crucifixion other than a display of Rome's power. In Jesus' execution, God the Father was powerfully demonstrating His righteous judgment and gracious love.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 19:29-30.

When Jesus said, "It is finished," to what was He referring, and in what sense was it "finished"?

What did John mean in stating that Jesus "gave up His spirit"? How does this phrase compare to simply saying, "Jesus died"?

Jesus' cry is one of accomplishment, not defeat. It is grammatically and thematically linked to His statement in John 17:4, "I have glorified You on the earth by completing the work You gave Me to do." Through His death, Jesus loved His disciples to the end and completed all that the Father had charged. It truly was accomplished. The apostle Paul's teaching in Colossians 2:13-15 helps us better understand exactly what was accomplished that day on the cross.

Read Colossians 2:13-15. How does this passage help you better understand Jesus' declaration, "It is finished"? What did Jesus' death accomplish for us and for our world?

The Gospel writer Luke gives us a little bit more information about the final moments of Jesus' death and what happened immediately after in his parallel account of these events (Luke 23).

Read Luke 23:46. Jesus' statement is similar to David's in Psalm 31:5 when he sought refuge in God's care. Discuss the possible impact on the crowd of Jesus' statement.

How does Jesus' statement show that He was in control to the very end of His life? What does this statement suggest to believers today about reliance on God?

Read Luke 23:47-49, the responses of those in the crowd to Jesus' death. What testimony did a Roman centurion give when Jesus died? Discuss what the centurion may have seen in Jesus to bring him to that conclusion.

What does the response of people in the crowd suggest about what they were feeling as they left the scene of the crucifixion?

How should these events influence us today as we seek to live for Christ?

The crucifixion is only the first half of Jesus' redemptive work on our behalf. In another of his church letters, the apostle Paul explained the bigger picture of the crucifixion accompanied by Jesus' resurrection days later.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-5.

In verses 3 and 4, Paul gives the content of the gospel. What is the gospel message?

How crucial is the cross to the entire gospel story?

How crucial is the resurrection to the entire gospel story?

Why are both stated "in accordance with the Scriptures"? Why is this fact so important?

The gospel can become a buzzword when we lose sight that it truly is Christ becoming man, dying for our sins, and being raised according to the promises of Scripture. Christ's death is part of the gospel because it is the good news that He took on our sins and our death on the cross. The resurrection is part of the gospel because it shows that Christ is God, meaning He can cover all our sins. The Scriptures pointed to Christ coming and dying a substitutionary death. Without an understanding that everything Christ did was a part of God's plan, we miss the truth of who God is.

We often think of Christ's death alone as our salvation, why is the resurrection necessary for our salvation?

If Christ stayed in the tomb, would His death have covered everyone's sins? Why or why not?

How does Christ's resurrection show He is God? How does that affect His atoning death?

If Jesus had stayed in the tomb, then He was just a man. Any man can die. In fact, all do. Only God-Man, Jesus Christ, could have died the death that took on the sins of man and dealt with them eternally. The resurrection is the power of salvation. The cross is the place of salvation.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What difference does the death and resurrection of Christ make in your daily life?

How can you use the story of Jesus' death and resurrections as a tool when you share your faith with others? How can it show others the plan of God?

How do you respond when someone challenges the reality of the resurrection? How do you proclaim Jesus' resurrection to others?

How can you be a part of God's plan and make it known to others? How should it affect the way that you plan?

PRAYER

Close your time in prayer, praising God for who Christ is. Praise Christ for being God made flesh who died and who rose. Thank God for the resurrection which is the power of salvation. Pray that your group would reflect on and think about who Jesus is and all that He has done for you.

COMMENTARY

| JOHN 19:29-30

Jesus' request for a drink (John 19:28) resulted in the centurion and one of the soldiers giving Jesus sour wine so that He might have some relief from His parched lips and throat. Apparently it was the custom to offer sour wine to victims of crucifixion because John said a jar full of sour wine was sitting there. Sour wine but not cool water. Only John mentioned that the soldiers stuck the sponge full of sour wine to a branch of hyssop and held it up to His mouth.

Some bystanders may have expected the wine to have a temporary reviving effect, prolonging Jesus' struggle on the cross, but Jesus announced that His end had come. "It is finished" meaning consummated. As we might say today, "It's over." Jesus knew His entire work of redemption (both His active and passive obedience and His fulfilling the law and bearing its curse) was completed. Although Jesus' actual physical death and burial had not yet occurred, His death and burial were so certain that He spoke of these events as if they too had already been accomplished. The saying "It is finished" is one word in Greek, a perfect tense verb form of the root teleo that refers to a state of permanency. The word literally means "to bring something to its intended goal or end." Jesus' crucifixion was a one-time event in history that will never again be required.

After His cry of victory, Jesus bowed His head and gave up His spirit. The Greek expression translated bowed his head is used elsewhere to describe going to bed (Matt. 8:20).

Though His body was racked with physical pain, Jesus died a peaceful death, trusting the Father. When He gave up His spirit, He was acting voluntarily. He was in charge. Death did not overpower Jesus; He gave Himself in death to save all who will accept Him. John did not record Jesus' seventh saying and last words before He died, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46). The reason likely was that John wanted to emphasize Jesus' completed work of redemption that His sixth saying expressed. John also stressed that Jesus sovereignly controlled His own destiny in submission to the Father's will.

Jesus' death occurred at the season of the Passover celebration. He died as the Lamb of God (John 1:29,36). The blood of the lambs sprinkled on their homes in obedience to God's command had spared the Israelites when the destroyer invaded the land of Egypt before the Israelites left for the promised land (Ex. 12:13). John wrote in 1 John 1:7 that "the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." Jesus died for you and me. John also told us how to experience Christ's forgiveness: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).