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THE SIXTH WORD ON THE CROSS  
John 19:30

INTRODUCTION

It has been thrilling to think about the sayings on the cross on the first Sundays of each month. Before the darkness, Jesus said "Father, forgive them." And "Today thou shalt be with me." And a friendly ~~word~~ word for his mother.

During the darkness, he spoke, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" After the darkness, he spoke the word, "I thirst." Today we come to that sixth word where he says, "It is finished."

There is a thrill in being able to finish a task. You have no been doubt ~~xxx~~ present when the foundation was laid for a house, and then from time to time you have watched it in progress. You perhaps know the meaning of finished work. You have also seen houses that have been started, the foundation has been laid, but no further work has taken place. This was the ~~xx~~ situation in Luke 14:9 which tells of a foundation incomplete.

In 2 Chronicles 7:11, Solomon finished the house, finished his work, completed it.

In Exodus 40:33, Moses finished his work.

II ~~xxx~~ Timothy 4:7, Paul says, "I have finished my course."

Jesus said, "It is finished." He did not say, "It is begun." He did not say that the work was going on. It is very much like a seed that began its cycle, it is planted, it germinated, it brought forth shoots, there were buds, then blossoms, and then the <sup>formation</sup> ~~formation~~ of the fruit, and then the ripened fruit on the tree. The same is true in every ~~an~~ individual life. There is a day when life is finished and complete.

Like a book, there is a beginning, and then there is a last page which finishes all matters. We are very much like that in a number of things, and yet we leave often a lot of things incomplete. We cannot say with Jesus, "It is finished."

Now this is one of the most important words that Jesus ever spoke just at his death with great certainty. He said, "It is finished." As a man who was given a task and he delivers his cargo, he completes his work, he has reached his goal in view and he says, "It is finished."

Little did the world understand all of this.

Because man constantly asks the question, "What work did Jesus come to finish?"

First, to provide the ~~answer~~ answer for sin. This is one of the changeless things in a changing world. We might note the Garden of Eden and the tragedy.

We note the efforts of man to provide the ~~XXXX~~ answer at Battle.

Sin which separates man from God is the work that Jesus came to finish, put an end to it.

Second, he came to meet the demands of the law. The law stated that sin must be accounted for by shed blood on an altar. The law had other ~~XXXX~~ demands. Therefore, Christ came to meet the demands and finish the work in reference to ~~XXXX~~ reclaiming man from his lost condition.

Someone would say that everything was not finished. We are still in the reach of death. Man still has his ups and downs. For almost two thousand years of waiting we still dare to hope and to wait, and to stake all on this that was accomplished on the cross. We know that the new world is finished no matter how much our world is living in sin that Jesus' work has been accomplished.

How was Christ to finish ~~his~~ his work?

First, not by the incarnation. We think how wonderful the virgin birth was of our Lord, but this did not really crush sin.

Second, power is not enough. You follow Christ in his journey of life and you witness many miracles. He reached many lost people.

Third, suffering is not enough. Jesus suffered much grief and much sorrow, and yet he left a few friends. That would not have been enough to ~~finish~~

finish the work.

Fourth, (holiness is not enough) Jesus walked in perfect obedience - he was sinless. But that was not the thing that completed his task.

There is only one way and that was through death, John 12:24. It is strange that life should come by death that he must go down through this valley of death. Man has the power to kill, but God has the power to make alive, and it was through death that Jesus had come to the place that he was able to say, "It is finished."

First of all notice this sixth word suggests that something had come to an end. It seems that the Bible is revealing to us that there is something that has been brought to a close. Just as Paul says, "I have finished my course." There was a death struggle that Jesus was working to crush the head of the serpent, the prince of the power of the air had been overcome. The tempter will continue to tempt, but never again will our Saviour have to be nailed to the tree. He is through with the torments of hell and on the cross he will soon breathe his last. Now he lies dead and yet he triumphed because of the coming resurrection.

Second, this sixth word announces that he had executed the document of salvation. He had finished the work that God had given him to do. John 17:4.

Now this is usually a common term on legal papers in the sense to execute, to carry

out one's duty. It means to execute a deed, to complete that deed, there must be inserted the date and the signature.

Now before the foundation of this world, God had determined that he would reconcile the world unto himself, and this is the document which became the gospel.

This will be the piece of paper that will save whosoever believeth in him shall not perish. This backs up John 3:16. Have you ever received this deed and this title, this document which Jesus said was finished?

The original word means it was finished ~~xx~~ and as a result it ~~was~~ is (forever done). It stands finished.

F. W. Borham gave an illustration once of a farmer speaking about his herd. There was born an animal so beautiful and shapely that it seemed absolutely destitute of faults and defects. The farmer ~~gave~~ gazed upon the creature with proud delighted eyes, and said, "It is finished. It stands finished. It is a complete animal."

Now this word is the word that Jesus spoke on the cross when he said that this document of a salvation had been completed.

The great scholar Bede many many years ago may also illustrate this. The old saint set himself to translate the gospel of John into his native English.

His frail body was racked with pain, and his great age made it a question as to whether or not he had strength enough to finish his work. The young man who wrote at his dictation pleaded with him to leave the ~~at~~ task unfinished, but he would not rest. They reached at length the final chapter. Would death delay? "And now, dear master," said the young scribe, "only one sentence remains." He read the words and the dying man feebly gave the English equivalent. "It is finished, dear master," cried the excited youth. "Ay, it is finished," replied the old saint. "Lift me up, place me at that window which I have often prayed to God. Now glory be to the Father and to the Son, and the Holy Ghost," and with that he was gone to his reward. In similar fashion Jesus said, "It is done. The work has been completed. Salvation has been provided for."

Third, this sixth word issues a proclamation for every sin ~~bound heart~~ bound heart. Jesus is saying the price has been paid in full. The commercial transaction has taken place. As in the New Testament they talked about collecting tax toll and revenue. Jesus has said, "I will pay the sum." And now he is introducing the receipt. It is all paid in full. This is the ransom theory of the atonement. Jesus gave his life for the relief and release of men's souls.

So many times today we find the emphasis has been shifted from what Christ did for man on the cross to what man can do for himself.

In this transaction, Jesus went down to the depths of hell for our sins. He dated it, he signed the receipt with his own blood, and he said, "I will pay this sum." And now it is paid. And so there is a receipt, but a receipt ~~is~~ is nothing more than a piece of paper unless it is accepted. And this is the most authoritative fact in all of history, that Jesus came to free you of sin.

Fourth, this sixth word announces the perfection and completeness of your saviour. Jesus was perfect. Jesus was complete. He was free from any fault. You may use any kind of microscope and ~~we~~ search for a fault in Jesus. You will not find it. And it seemed that the Heavenly Father in counseling with Jesus had set this before him. "Until you have accomplished this for me" - he seems to bid him farewell, and he comes born of a virgin. He grew in wisdom and stature. He was baptized and he walked perfect before men. And he was like a servant. And this is the real portrait of the whole picture when he puts the finishing touches on it. And he states that his mission is complete.

Dr. A. T. Robertson, one of the great scholars who wrote many books, was rich as an author, a student, a preacher, a counsellor. He was always in a rush, he worked hard, and ~~we~~ he hated anybody who loafed. Shortly before his death, he agreed to write a translation of the Greek New Testament. On September 23, 1934, ~~he~~ on Monday, he worked at his desk until 3:00, the hour of his Greek class; removed

his eye shades, he hurried off to class. Thirty minutes later he suffered a stroke which took him away in less than two hours. Afterwards it was discovered that he had just completed translating the gospel of Matthew through his accounts of the five thousand. On his desk he had left the unfinished manuscript amid a scattered array of books and papers, and though he intended to return, with all the dedication of his life, because it was incomplete. This was not so with Jesus. Despite all that people say about him, he arrived at each station on schedule. Study the types of prophecies in the Old Testament of his sufferings. Study the shadows and he will tell you that it is finished. The work of man's redemption and salvation is now complete, at least ~~the hardest~~ the hardest part of it, because the fountain of grace has been opened.

Full satisfaction had been made for the redemption and salvation of man, the hardest part of the undertaking is now over, and the justice of God has been satisfied, and the fountain of grace has been opened and will flow until God sees fit to shut it off. Jesus died voluntarily as a priest sacrificially giving his life.

The promise that the (seed of the woman) will bruise the serpent's head had now been fulfilled.

The veil of the temple had been now rent, and the way into the Holy



of Holies was open, for God had fulfilled the substitute, the representative had satisfied the requirements of the law. No longer would the slaughter of animals take place on the altars, nor would this be necessary in the temple or elsewhere. The old ceremonial sacrifices were nailed to the ~~XXXXX~~ cross.

We consider now in the final place to whom was this spoken? "It is finished." This sixth word.

First, I believe it was spoken to God. We may be sure that Jesus answers back and says, "My mission is accomplished." Jesus ~~XXXX~~ sent somewhat of a telegram with a very brief report. However, it was enough. It was a famous report. Jesus needed only a few words to say it. And he said, "It is finished." You remember Ceasar when he ~~had~~ had a successful mission, said, "I came, I saw, I conquered." It is only when we fail or succeed that we need a lot of words to support our success, or even a failure. It ~~is~~ is extremely important here to note that Jesus in his success merely said, "It is finished."

Second, I believe this sixth word was said to the angels in glory. Peter tells us that the angels desired to look in upon this scene. I Peter 1:12. They did not really understand the exceeding sinfulness of man, nor could they really comprehend the grace of God. And as they looked upon the ravages of the cross, they looked with wonder to see and to watch how Jesus went about the task

of rescuing the world from sin. It was a word telling them that redemption had been satisfied.

Third, he said the word to the multitude in heaven, that great number that no man can number. I imagine they looked forward to this day that the Messiah would come into the world. There was Abraham who rejoiced to see this in his day. And as we read the Old Testament, they were in heaven on credit, so to speak. We know that Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. But these (men died) looking forward unto the promise of a coming Messiah, through faith, and they would have been lost in hell had it not been fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

This is the greatest proclamation ever made, that was ever heard by heaven, earth, or hell. Today it ought to echo throughout our churches.

Fourth, I believe Jesus spoke this word to the people on earth. He did not delay. He went to the cross and he said to mankind, "It is finished." The note has been paid, the deed has been dated and signed in my blood. The receipt for your ransom has been signed and it stands paid forevermore. And there will never be made a demand that it should be paid again. This is the mystery of all mysteries.

Ebenezer (Wooten) an Englishman and evangelist, held meetings in a

tent in the villages, and following one meeting the last service had been conducted. The crowd was leaving, the evangelist was busy taking ~~down~~ down the tent. A young fellow approached the preacher and rather casually said, "Mr. Wooten, what must I do to be saved?" ("Too late") said the ~~xx~~ evangelist in a matter of fact way as he glanced up at the inquirer. "Toolate, my friend, too late."

This startled the young man driving away every appearance of indifference.

"Oh, don't say that, Mr. Wooten. Surely it isn't too late just because the meetings are over."

"Yes, my friend," answered the evangelist, looking him straight in the eye. "It's too late. You want to know what you ~~must~~ do to be saved, and I tell you that you are hundreds of years too late. The work of salvation is done, completed, finished. It was finished on the cross. Jesus said so with his last breath that he drew. What ~~xx~~ more do you want?"

Then the truth dawned upon the young man, there was nothing for him to do to finish the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus had perfected it upon the cross. There was nothing for him to do but to fall upon his knees and accept the Saviour and his finished work of grace.

Have you ~~done~~ done this, or will you do it?

Dr. Robert G. Lee once went upon a preaching mission to Australia.

He had preached several nights without much response and one night he suddenly

gave an illustration concerning the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross, and he

*Told them he was going to shock them!*

stated to some people that this meant no more than the seeing of a dead dog or

a dead kangaroo along the highway. He illustrated it as how some singers could

sing about the love of Jesus Christ without any meaning at all in their hearts.

And he tried to picture it to them what Jesus was doing on the cross, and then

he goes on to tell how that g following that service, a very nicely dressed young

woman came up and said, "Oh, Dr. Lee, I never understood it like that." God sent

you this way to help me to see what Christ was doing on the cross." Now this

is the thing that I am talking to you about today when Jesus said, "It is finished."

He means that blood that was shed will be able to save you from all your sins.