

**Remnant Life Church**  
April 14, 2019  
Palm Sunday  
**Words Spoken from the Cross**  
**Pt. 3**  
John 19:30; Luke 23:46

The Seven words spoken from the cross

1. *Father forgive them...* (Lk 23:34)
2. *Truly I say to you today you will be with me in paradise* (Lk 23:43)
3. *Woman, here is your son; this is your mother* (John 19:26-27)
4. *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?* (Matt 27:46; Mark 15:34)
5. *I am thirsty* (John 19:28)
6. *It is finished* (John 19:30)
7. *Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit* (Luke 23:46)

This morning it is those last two I want to examine

All four Gospels record the crucifixion of Jesus

- They all provide a different view of what took place – why?
  - Because they were not all written at the same time (20 to 40 years after Jesus)
  - The Bible names only John as an eye-witness to the last moments of Jesus' life
  - But don't allow the differences to bring doubt into your mind
- How do the four Gospels record the last moment of the crucifixion?
  - Matthew – *And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit.* (Matt 27:50)
  - Mark – *With a loud cry, Jesus breathed His last.* (Mark 15:37)
  - Luke – *Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father into your hands I commit my spirit."* (Luke 23:46)
  - John – *When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.* (John 19:30)

What was finished?

- Was it the pain of the cross and what Jesus had asked His Father to let pass Him by just a few hours ago?
- Was it the humiliation of the crucifixion that was as much intended to intimidate the people who were watching as it was to execute the individual?
- Or was he referring to the purpose of His life and why He had come to live among people?

The place to start in order to answer that is with the word "finished"

1. The three words, "It is finished" is one word in the Greek of the NT
2. Tetelestai – (teh-TELL-es-tie)
3. It is that word that carries the weight of what was done

- a. Many of the oldest manuscripts, however, only utilize the word “finished” as being what Jesus said
  - b. What should be understood is that is not a word of relief at the end of a defeated moment, but a declaration of a victory of accomplishment
  - c. That word is teleo (the-LAY-oh) with several meanings -
    - i. What Jesus had finished was the work His Father had sent Him to do (**John 17:4**)
      1. For you, for me, for all who believe in Him
      2. It was and is completed
    - ii. Another meaning of that same word ‘paid in full’
      1. Archaeologist in that region have found many ancient forms of business transactions receipts with this same word, “the-LAY-oh”, written in bold letters
        - a. Jesus paid the price for your sin in full
        - b. **Rom 6:23** - *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
    - iii. A final use of the word was one of victory
      1. In ancient times (at games or events) when the first runner crossed the finished line he would call out the-LAY-oh!
      2. It was for all to hear – the victory has been won!
4. Jesus spoke all of those things in that one word
- a. The work is completed
  - b. The debt has been paid in full
  - c. Victory!

But another sentence, the final words spoken by Jesus recorded in the Gospel of Luke, also tell us something very important

*Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit (Luke 23:46)*

What is so significant about these words?

- Would that not be something you would expect Him to say?
- Words that signify the coming to the end of a horrific ordeal He had to endure on our behalf?
- Yes, to both those questions – but it is also something else

We spoke last week of the words Jesus spoke, ones not easy to understand, of My God, my God why have you forsaken me?

- We recognized that Jesus was speaking the words of the psalmist found in **Psalms 22:1**
  - I shared with you that all throughout the ministry of Jesus He quoted the OT
  - He does so here again with His final words – **Psalm 31:5**
    - David is very likely in hiding as King Saul continues to pursue him with the intent of killing him in jealousy and fear of David’s popularity with the people
    - **READ – Psalm 31:1-5**
    - Would Jesus not be looking to His Father in much the same way?

But is something else these last words did -

- They literally changed the entire perception of what had been happening – what do I mean?
- Fan of covert, black-ops, fiction books
  - Noted for plot twists and turns that change the thinking of the reader
  - One sentence at the end of the paragraph completely alters what you think has been happening
  - The name of the hero is always something hard like Dalton Steele or Dirk Blade yet they also always have that soft, tender side no one but the one woman he can never be with has seen...
  - These guys are almost always ex-Navy Seal or Army Ranger
  - “Dalton Steele held his gun steady on the man in the shadows, who just moments before had been trying to kill him, and demanded he come out. As the figure moved slowly toward him the light of the pale moon revealed a familiar face – the face of his missing father.”
    - From that point on, everything you believed had happened must be seen in a new light
    - So too Jesus changed everything in that moment
- To every person on that hill Jesus’ life was being taken from Him
  - The chief priests, most likely watching from a respectable and discrete distance, had accomplished what they set out to do
  - Pilate was rid of a rabble-rouser who was threatening his peaceful position as Governor of Judea
  - Satan, in his deceptive mind, thought he now had his vengeance for being thrown out of heaven
  - Every demon of hell was cackling with delight
  - Even the disciples believed they had lost their teacher, their mentor, their friend and went into hiding
- But in reality, Jesus had absolutely nothing taken from Him
  - In the great twist of what appeared to be the plot of this story, with one line, Jesus revealed what was actually happening
  - This was the plan all along!
    - Jesus did not have His life taken from Him, He gave it up willingly
    - And this is exactly what He had told His disciples would happen
    - **John 10:17-18** - *The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.*
    - Jesus may have been nailed to a cross, but He was in total control right until the very last moment

What does that mean to us this morning?

- It means that every plan of God to bring us back to Himself was completed
  - The final blood atonement for your sins and for mine had been paid

- And just prior to these words, according to Luke, the veil in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom
  - The veil was a curtain that separated the Holy of Holies (the place of the Ark representing the very presence of God) from the rest of the temple
  - No one was permitted in that place, you couldn't even look into the room
  - Only the High Priest could enter and only once a year on the Day of Atonement
- The dimensions of the Holy of Holies can be determined by the fact that the temple built by Herod (the second after the temple of Solomon was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC) followed the dimensions of the first.
  - **I Kings 6** says 20 cubits in length, height, and depth
  - A cubit is 18" or a foot and a half
  - Meaning the entrance to the room was 30' x 30'
  - The curtain had to cover that opening to block anyone from being able to see inside
  - Thick enough to be very heavy
  - Extra-biblical writings (i.e. Josephus) say it took 300 priests to move the curtain
- The curtain was torn from top to bottom meaning it was by the Hand of God
- When this happened, the way into God's presence was opened to everyone
  - When Jesus gave His life He made a way for us to come back into the presence of God

What is required of me?

- Paul and Silas were sitting in a prison when an earthquake set them free and the jailer asked them that very same question
  - **Acts 16:30b-31** - *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."*
- Paul is teaching the Romans about Jesus and tells them..
  - **Rom 19:9-10** - *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

Today is Palm Sunday

- Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem, to the shouts of Hosanna, and to all outward appearances, a person of royalty being welcomed by the people
- But He knew these very same people, in less than 5 days, would be screaming, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him!"
- Who are you this morning?
  - Are you like the jailer who realizes the greatness and wonder of God and the depravity and sin of His own life?
  - Or are you a member of the mob who is calling for Jesus to be taken away?
- The temple curtain was torn for you
- Jesus' life was not taken from Him, He gave it up willingly for you because He loves you.