The Road to the Hill - Finished! (Good Friday)

John 19:30

4/18/25

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*When Jesus had tasted it, he said, “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Over the past few weeks, we've been in a series called "The Road to the Hill." In this series we've examined the reason and meaning of Jesus, the cross, and Easter.

* 1st week - Why Easter? Because of the ruin by sin and rebellion against God, Jesus has to come to restore us.
* 2nd week: Three Along the Road. We saw that Jesus frees us from the past, gives us hope in the present, and cares deeply about our future.

Tonight, we're going directly to the hill, Calvary. Where the Road to the Hill, where “It is Finished” with Jesus being nailed to the cross, but in reality it’s just beginning for us!

Read John 19:30

*When Jesus had tasted it, he said, “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

I want to start with the question, what does love sound like? Prior to John 19:30 Jesus has had a busy last few legs of this road to the hill.

* He has shown how to serve, by washing His disciple’s feet
* He has had His Last Supper with His disciples
* He has been betrayed, arrested, deserted as well as denied.
* Jesus has been through a lynching mob and a trial.
* He's been found guilty of telling the truth.
* He's sentenced to die and be crucified on a cross.
* He’s endured immense pain and suffering at the hands of the Roman Soldiers.
* He's watched the soldiers gamble for his only possessions, a few articles of clothes.
* He has one friend there, and asks him to take care of His mother.
* He gets one last drink for His thirst.
* Then He said His last words and dies.

God the Son, Jesus Christ's heart beats for one last time and stops. It's those last words He shouts from the hill that we want to concentrate on this evening this evening. You see, what He says with His dying breath is very significant. They weren’t just a saying of a dying man, or words to become a “well known” quote, but these words, spoken by Jesus, are what love sounds like.

Jesus says, "It is finished." In the Greek, this is only one word "te-tel-estai". What does "tetelestai" mean? Of course, we know it means "it is finished.”, but in depth it means...

* **to "accomplish or complete something."**
* It's in the third person perfect passive tense. (First person present "teleo" - "I am finishing")
* It means that whatever "it" is, has been completed (perfect) by something other than itself (passive).
* It means that whatever "it" is, is done completely, with nothing left to do by the One acting on it.
* **It means that Jesus has once and for all finished something completely for all time for all people**

But what is it that Jesus finished? What is the "it" Jesus is speaking to? What are the things Jesus completed as He died? Briefly, to grasp the seriousness of this, let’s look back through the Bible and see if we can find out.

Jesus tells us several times in the Gospels why he came. Maybe it's those things He came to do that He finished on the cross. In fact, I think that's going to be the ticket here. When we find out why Jesus came, I think we will find out what He finished on the cross.

What did Jesus tell us His reasons were for coming?

* **He came to fulfill the Law** 
  + Matthew 5:17

*“Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.”*

This is a verse from the first part of the Sermon on the Mount. The Law and the Prophets summed up everything God had said through the Old Testament. Jesus didn't come to get rid of the Old Testament, He came to do it all, to fulfill and complete it. And He did. He lived His entire life on this earth sinless, perfect, and blameless.

* **He came to call sinners to Him** 
  + Matthew 9:13

*Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”*

In this passage Jesus is at Matthew's party with Matthew's friends (tax collectors, sinners). The religious people don't think very highly of the company Jesus chooses. Jesus says He didn't come to call the righteous (sarcastically because the religious people thought they were OK). Jesus said He came to call people just like at Matthew's party: sinners.

* **He came to call people to repent** 
  + Luke 5:32

*I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.”*

Same exact party, same exact religious people, as remembered and recorded by Luke. Jesus says He has come to call these sinners to repent. He's come to call all sinners to turn from the path away from Him and start on the path toward Him.

* **He came to do the Father's will** 
  + John 6:38

*For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will.*

Jesus tells the crowds that He is the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to Him will never be hungry or thirsty again. He came to do the Father's will, to not lose any that God gives them and give them eternal life.

* **He came to bring light into darkness** 
  + John 12:46

*I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.*

He says whoever believes in Him, He sees the One who sent Him. He came to bring light into the darkness people live in without Him.

This were the things Jesus said He came to accomplish while He was on this earth. And here at the end of the Road to the Hill, on the Hill, on the Cross, on Good Friday, He had finished what He came to do.

Closing:

**What can we take away from this?** I want you to think on these areas Jesus has finished and really consider them as they apply to us tonight.

* **Jesus has taken care of our sin problem with God** 
  + How? He lived a perfect sinless life. He obeyed and fulfilled everything God had ever said. This made Him the perfect, sinless sacrifice to pay for our imperfect, sinful lives.
* **Jesus has shown us the way to a real relationship with God** 
  + We've not been left here without knowing how to come to a real relationship with God. Jesus is the light to guide us to God. HE IS THE WAY TO GOD! Jesus calls us to Him just as we are. He knows we're sinners yet that's who He came for. He wants us to turn away from that junk in our lives and turn to Him. Jesus calls us to Him so we can be with Him forever. He came to do the Father's will. And that was to bring all God's people to an eternity with Him in heaven.

What does love sound like...It’s the sound of the work that was done at the cross for my soul, your soul, our eternities. Nails clanging, whips, cracking, blooding splashing to the ground, a heart breaking...

This work was impossible for us to do ourselves. Our destination which was set for death and Hell has now been changed, because the work... “IT IS FINISHED”!

**So, with that said, what's left to finish? Your choice**. Assume this is all just a hoax, a good story, and you reject Jesus, and then face judgment for your decision? Or will your choice be to believe by faith that this Friday is Good, because tonight you can be saved and live an ABUNDANT full life that was paid for through our Savior! Jesus did all the work because He loves us so...

Communion:

The “Elements” or Sacraments we hold in our hands this evening symbolize and guarantee God’s promises to us. "Communion" comes from the Greek word "to give thanks," which makes sense because in communion we give thanks for what Jesus has done. The bread (wafer) we eat and the wine (juice) we drink symbolize Jesus's body and blood given for us.

This is a serious moment, and we should use this time not only be thankful for what Christ has done and the worked He has finished, but during this time we should examine ourselves. Look deep within our heart to ensure that our relationship with Christ is authentic and genuine. Not only recalling the realness of our relationship with Christ but also seeking to discover if there is any unconfessed sin impeding our current fellowship with God.

Truth is, we would be remiss to ingest these symbols of Christ without a heart that is purposefully thankful. For this moment is not only a reminder of his brutal death, but it is also a celebration of the incredibly generous grace of God and the invaluable privilege of being forgiven.

Matt. 26:26-27

*As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take this and eat it, for this is my body.” 27 And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, “Each of you drink from it, 28 for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant[a] between God and his people.*