

It is Finished (John 18:28-19:30)

Good Friday 18-Apr-25

John 18:28-19:30

Jesus Before Pilate

²⁸ Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

³⁰ "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

³¹ Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

"But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. ³² This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

³⁴ "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

³⁵ "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

³⁶ Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

³⁸ "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?"

⁴⁰ They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

Jesus Sentenced to Be Crucified

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³ and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

⁴ Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁵ When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

⁶ As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

⁷ The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

⁸ When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹ and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

¹² From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

¹³ When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the jews. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

²² Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

²⁴ “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.”

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

“They divided my clothes among them

and cast lots for my garment.”

So this is what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” ²⁷ and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

The Death of Jesus

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Please have your **Bibles opened** to **John chapter 18 starting at verse 28**

There’s an **outline** for you to take **notes**. Let me **pray** first. Let’s pray...

Intro/Why the Cross of Jesus?

Why the **cross of Jesus**?

[Slide-Intro/Why the Cross?]

Well because of **some bad news** that the **prophet Isaiah** says in Isaiah 53:6 - *“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*

Isaiah is saying **we are all lost from God** – like lost sheep – and **God plans to lay our sins** (iniquities) on a certain Him!

And the prophet Ezekiel in Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-16 tell us who this certain Him is:

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays!”

And so, **God sent His Son- Jesus** – the **Good Shepherd**.

And Jesus Himself says this: *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”* (John 10:11)

That’s why we need the **Cross of Jesus**!

In our NT reading – the **last verse we read** – John 19:30.

The **last words of Jesus** were **“It is finished”**

But what does Jesus mean – by **“It is finished?”**

It means **Jesus finished what we couldn't even start!**

Let's look at this under **three headings**:

1. **Our Fallen Condition Highlighted** – John 18:28-19:16
2. **God's Plan Fulfilled** – John 19:16-29
3. **Salvation Secured Forever** – John 19:30

Our Fallen Condition Highlighted – John 18:28-19:16

[Slide-#1]

1st then **our fallen condition highlighted** – John 18:28-19:16.

In this section we see the fallen condition of the **Jewish Leaders**, the Roman governor **Pontius Pilate** and the **Roman soldiers**!

We **pick up the story** from John 18 – verse 28

Jesus has been arrested and the **Jewish leaders** take Jesus to the palace of the Roman governor. But they **won't enter the palace** because they **don't want to become ceremonially unclean** by entering a **Gentile** (non-Jewish) **building** – especially during Passover.

Here we see the **fallen condition of hypocrisy** – the **Jewish leaders** are more concerned about **outward cleansing and appearances** – but they are not concerned about their corrupt and immoral hearts – in **condemning innocent Jesus to death**!

When Pontius Pilate suggests (v31) that the **Jewish leaders** can judge Jesus under **Jewish law** – they object saying they **don't** have the right to execute Jesus – because they are **under Roman rule**. [However, it didn't stop the Jews stoning Stephen to death a few weeks later]

Basically, the **Jewish leaders** want the Romans to do their dirty work for them – so their hands are clean of Jesus' death. But God knows their hearts!

What the Jewish Leaders and Pontius Pilate don't realize is **Jesus' death is all part of God's plan.**

As v32 says *“This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.”*

Then in **verses 33 to 40**. We have a **dialogue** between Jesus and Pilate.

In this **dialogue** – we see that **Jesus is in control**.

When Pilate asks Jesus *“are you the King of the Jews”* (v33)

I just love Jesus' answer (v34) *“Is that your own idea or did others talk to you about me?”*

As the **dialogue** continues – we learn:

- Jesus **IS** a King and no ordinary King
- His **Kingdom is not of this world** (v36)
- Jesus' Kingdom is a **spiritual Kingdom of Heaven and Earth**
- And that *Jesus came into the world to testify to the truth* and *anyone on the side of truth listens to Him* (v37)

What a **contrast** we have between - Jesus – who is the absolute and ultimate **truth** – in comparison to the **manipulation and lies of the Jewish leaders!**

Application

In a world of fake news – and where people can have their own version of the truth – **we need to ignore all that** – and **come to Jesus** – **the source of absolute truth!**

Sadly, Pilate, is buying into the manipulation and lies of the Jewish leaders. He asks famously – v38 – “*What is truth?*”

The **answer is staring him in the face** – **The Truth is Jesus!**

Pilate can see **Jesus is innocent** (v38).

But he **fears a rebellion from the Jews** – which will make him **look weak with the Emperor Caesar** – so he **tries to get Jesus released** by using the **traditional custom of releasing one prisoner at Passover** (v39).

But when Pilate asks if the Jews want to release Jesus, “*the King of the Jews*” (v39) – the **people say NO!** They **want the rebel, Barrabas, to be released instead.**

Pilate caves in under the pressure.

As we move into **chapter 19**

We see the **fallen condition** of the **Roman soldiers**:

- **Jesus is flogged** (v1)

- He's made to wear a **crown of thorns** (v2) and a **purple robe** to denote his **apparent royalty**
- And they **taunt Jesus** with "*Hail King of the Jews*" – and **slap his face** (v3)

Little do they know – **He is a King – the King of Kings!**

Pilate tries once more to **convince the Jews of Jesus' innocence** (vv4-5)

But the **Jewish leaders** shout "*Crucify! Crucify!*" (v6)

Ironically Pilate thinks he is control of the situation telling Jesus (v10) "*Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?*"

But **Jesus rightly reminds Pilate** (v11) – "*You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin*"

It's worth noting here – that **Jesus finds the Jewish leaders** who handed him over **more culpable than Pilate!**

The Jewish leaders leave Pilate with a **real dilemma** – because in v12 they say "*If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.*"

Pilate knows Jesus is innocent – but if he releases Jesus – **he will be in trouble** from the Emperor Caesar for releasing a 'wannabe' king!

The **fallen condition of the Jewish leaders** is even more highlighted in v16 when they say “***we have no King but Caesar***”! But they already have a King - their King **IS God – not Caesar**. Ironically, the **Jewish leaders are guilty of blasphemy** – the very charge they laid on Jesus!

Application:

Before we rest on our laurels this morning and say to ourselves **thank goodness I’m not like the Jewish leaders or Pilate or the Roman Soldiers**

- Don’t we need to confess - the times **we act unjustly** – the times **we cave under peer pressure and disobey God’s commands** – the times **we choose the world’s way instead of Jesus’ way?**
- Don’t we need to acknowledge that **we share the same fallen condition** – that **we act hypocritically** sometimes?
- Don’t we need to acknowledge – **we can’t save ourselves** – and **we need Jesus** – as our Saviour?
- When we see how Jesus conducted Himself – doesn’t it mean **we can trust God is in control** – even when **life feels unjust, painful, or confusing?**
- Doesn’t this passage encourage us - **to become more like Jesus** – isn’t it important we remain on His side – **the side of TRUTH**

Jesus says “It is finished” — because we couldn’t even begin to save ourselves. He has made it possible for us to be saved!

God's plan fulfilled – John 19:16-29

[Slide-#2]

2nd then **God's plan fulfilled** – John 19:16-29.

The crucifixion of Jesus **fulfils prophecy after prophecy**

Remember how in Genesis 22 – **Abraham was told to sacrifice His only Son Isaac** – who was spared at the last minute – **This points to Good Friday and God sacrificing His Only Son Jesus** – whom He didn't spare

We see in v17 – that **Jesus carried His own cross to the place of crucifixion** – just like He told His disciples **they must carry their cross and follow Him** (Matthew 16:24-26) – in other words **following Jesus comes at a cost and comes with suffering.**

Jesus – the innocent one - was **crucified between two criminals** (v18) – it's a **picture of sinless Jesus in the midst of sinful humanity**

On the Cross - **Jesus fulfils His own prophecy** – and **fulfils God's plan.**

Jesus told Nicodemus back in John 3:14-15 - ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

Ironically, the **notice fastened** to Jesus' cross saying "**Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews**" – written in **Aramaic, Latin and Greek** (vv19-20) – whether written

sarcastically or mockingly or not – points to the truth that **Jesus is the universal King of Heaven and Earth** – and everyone needs to acknowledge that!

As the soldiers divide Jesus' clothes and cast lots for His undergarment (vv23-24) – they **unwittingly fulfil a prophecy from Psalm 22:18** which says – “*They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment*”

Then in vv25-27 as Jesus entrusts His mother Mary into the care of the Apostle John and entrusts the Apostle John into the care of His mother Mary; Jesus not only shows amazing compassion, even though under immense suffering – He also shows and fulfils what a Christian family looks like – as He said in Matthew 12:50 “*For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother*”

And as Jesus thirsts on the cross (v28) – He fulfils Psalm 22:15 – “*my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth*”

And as Jesus receives vinegar on a sponge, lifted up to Him on a stalk of a hyssop plant (v29) – Jesus fulfils Psalm 69:21 – “*they... gave me vinegar for my thirst.*”

Throughout His suffering and crucifixion – **Jesus shows awareness that His mission is reaching its conclusion; and He acts deliberately to fulfill prophecy.**

The **four Gospels** show many Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Jesus' suffering and crucifixion.

Application

- If God was working through the darkness of the cross, **He is also working in our darkest moments.** We must trust God's plan in our Struggle. We must surrender the areas of fear and uncertainty in our lives - into God's care.
- Because Jesus suffered – **He understands our suffering!**
- We may have to carry our own cross too – like Jesus – **but remember we have Jesus with us always** – He carries us! And we can learn from Him (Matthew 11:28-30)

God's plan never fails, even when it looks like defeat!

Jesus said **"It is finished"** — because God kept every promise and Jesus fulfilled every prophecy!

Salvation secured forever – John 19:30

[Slide-#3]

3rd point then **Salvation secured forever** – John 19:30

Look at v30

*When he had received the drink, Jesus said, **"It is finished."** With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Jesus' final words are - a cry of completion – not a cry of collapse or defeat!

His Father's work of salvation is done – it's not delayed, not partially done – but completely done.

The **Greek Word for Finished** here, means to **pay a debt in full.**

The **debt we owe God** – which we can't pay – is the debt of obedience – we can't fully obey God – but JESUS can – and so - **He has paid our debt of obedience in full** – and **He's also paid our punishment for our sin – once and for all** – and we then go free of the punishment – and are forgiven!

We don't deserve to go free of punishment – we didn't earn it – but we get it because of Jesus – **that is called grace.**

And notice at the **end of v30** – *Jesus gave up His Spirit.*

This reinforces that **Jesus' final breath** was not taken from Him but given, showing He finished the Father's work in power

As Jesus said back in 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."***

Application

- We don't need to **carry guilt** or try to earn our salvation—**Jesus has done it all!**
- His sacrifice **frees us from shame** and **invites us to live in grace**, not fear.

- We can live in gratitude - Give thanks and praise for Jesus' finished work on the cross.
- As the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:20 – *You were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.*

Instead of concerning ourselves about getting 11 minutes in space on the New **Shepard** space rocket – like 6 women did this week – let us concern ourselves on getting to Heaven forever by following the **Good Shepherd** who lay down His life for people to do just that!

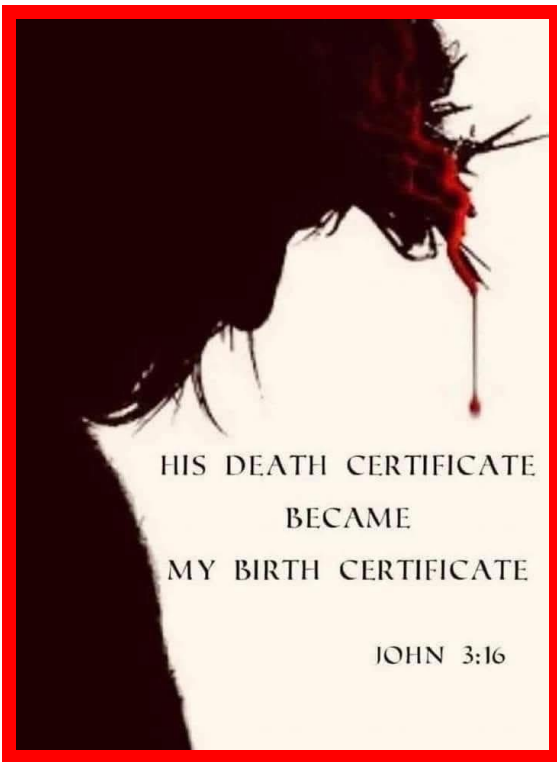
Jesus said “It is finished” – because Nothing more needs to be added.

Salvation is complete and assured for all who believe in Him

Conclusion

Let me leave us with one last thought

Jesus death certificate became our birth certificate



His death certificate became our birth certificate because when we believe in Jesus we are born again (John 3:3) and born of the Spirit (John 3:8)

At the cross, Jesus took on our sin and died in our place.

But through His death, God opened the way for a new birth—for all who believe.

In this new birth – we receive the Holy Spirit to help us live this new life – where Jesus is King of our life.

So, when Jesus cried, “*It is finished*,” He wasn’t signing off on defeat. He was signing our new beginning.

That new beginning starts with Easter Sunday and the resurrection of our Lord.

So, we will see you all on Sunday...

Let’s pray...

Father God,

We thank you for your immense love, grace and mercy in allowing your precious Son, Jesus, to be the once and for all sacrifice for sin.

Help us in view of this mercy, to live lives which show the love of Jesus and help us through your Spirit and Word become more like Jesus every day!

In Jesus, precious Name, Amen.

Benediction (Hebrews 13:20-21)

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”