

John 19: 28-30; John 4:31-34; It is Finished I. His Singular Focus II. His Finished Task

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, have you ever been distracted- or was your attention divided so that you forgot to do something? I remember driving from Iowa to Chicago with a friend once- it was late at night and we were busy talking and all of the sudden we noticed that we were almost out of gas! We were distracted by the conversation that we almost ran out of fuel in the middle of nowhere. Getting distracted can get us in trouble- like the driver who is too busy looking at their phone that they are not paying attention to the road. But what about Jesus- was He ever distracted? Did He neglect or forsake some aspect of His work because He was busy doing something else? Well, today we find the answer as we consider the 6<sup>th</sup> saying of Jesus- It is finished. We consider this theme: Jesus Christ completed all aspects of His earthly ministry for the sake of our comfort and salvation. On this Palm Sunday- we see the perfect and completed work of our Savior!

### **I. His Singular Focus**

In our first point we consider the fact that Jesus had a completely focussed view of His work. Why did Jesus come to earth- what was His purpose and plan? Why was He willing to suffer and die? For what was He working- what was the goal of His life? The fact is, Jesus had a completely focussed view- He had a perfect understanding of what He was supposed to do! We can sometimes question our purpose- when in college we wrestle with this question- what do I want to do with my life? And sometimes when people come to their middle age crisis they think again- what have I done with my life? Well Jesus never had one of these identity crises because He was completely singular in His focus. As we read earlier in John 4:34- my food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work. So the point of Jesus life was this- to obey the Father's will and to accomplish the Father's work. Jesus, in obeying His Father will, would obey the Father's commands- that is His active obedience; but Jesus will also submit to the Father's will in suffering the consequences of sin- that is His passive obedience. So Jesus obeys His Father's will but also accomplishes His Father's work? What was this work that the Father wanted

done? Well, the work of the Father was to bring glory to His name. Lets read a few verses from John 17-lets look at John 17: 4-8. Notice that Jesus prays at the end of His life- here on the cusp of His betrayal and death- I have glorified your name and I have revealed your words- I have revealed your work to your people, I have given them what you gave me- so that they might know you and know the truth. So that in knowing the truth they might have life. So what is the work that the Father had designed for the Son? Well, the work that the Son had completed was to bring glory to God by revealing the truth in God's Word! But we could also add, that Jesus was sent to this earth for the expressed purpose of suffering and dying for His people. Acts 2:23 says that Jesus was delivered up by the determined council and foreknowledge of God. So Jesus was sent by the Father to this world so that He might suffer and die. So the singular focus of Jesus' life is to obey His Father and to carry out His Father's will and plan. And that will and plan included Jesus suffering and dying for the sake of His people. In fact, if you think back to the first words of Jesus in Luke 2:49- when Jesus was found in the temple as a young boy- He said these words- didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house? Jesus knew already then- as a small lad- that His place was in His Father's house and that His work was to be busy with His Father's work. Many things had been foretold about what Jesus would say and do- and Jesus lived His life to fulfill and carry these out. As we read in John 19:28- Jesus knew that all was finished and in order to fulfill the Scriptures. His life was lived to fulfill the Scriptures! In fact, there are over 300 direct prophecies in the OT concerning the person, work and ministry of Jesus. From His place of birth to the place of His death. How He must obey and how He would suffer. What He would drink on the cross- and what He would say on the cross. Even what others would say about Him and too Him! From the His lineage to the place in which His body would be laid after death! Jesus had a singular focus- to do the will of His Father- to accomplish His Father's work- and to fulfill all that was necessary for righteousness and our salvation! We can get in trouble sometimes because we forget what we should remember- we even forget why we are on this earth sometimes! Have you ever walked into a

room only to realize you forgot why you came? Well, being forgetful is a sorry way to live! We can forget why we are here and what we are supposed to be doing! What is the purpose of your life? Why are you here? To amass wealth and riches- to have the least amount of pain or the most amount of pleasure? Or are you here to bring glory to God and obey His will for you? That is what Jesus never forget- His purpose! His purpose was to do the will of the Father and accomplish His work! And that work included dying on the cross to purchase our salvation!

## II. His Finished Task

Now that we understand the singular focus and calling of Jesus- we can in our second point focus on these final words of Jesus! Since Jesus understood His calling- we can see the depth of His word- it is finished! Since Jesus knew the reason why He was sent- only He could rightly say- I have done it! So in John 19:30 we read, it is finished. Again, as we saw last week, this is one word in the Greek “tetelostai”- one word that means- it is finished. The word, telos, means end or complete. When something comes to its telos it is accomplished and fulfilled- something is brought to a conclusion or an end. When Jesus said- tetelostai- it is as if He is saying- mission accomplished! The reason I have come has been fulfilled- the job has been completed. Now this was not a sigh of defeat- it was a loud shout of victory! When a runner finishes his race, he could shout- tetelostai- I did it! It is a celebration and affirmation- I have come to the end! A word of victory and even relief- I am done! A celebration- I have arrived! Now this brings a very important question to our mind- just what exactly had Jesus finished? What did He complete? First of all, Jesus completed and brought to a close the ceremonial law. The ceremonial law with its rites and rituals were never an end to themselves. They were always meant to be shadows- foretelling Him who was to come. Now the sacrifices and the altars- the basins and the clean utensils- the temple and the tabernacle- all find their completion in Christ. When Jesus said- it is finished- that means that all these other sacrifices and rituals are done with. No longer needed! When perfection comes as I Cor. 13 says, the imperfect passes away. The shadow is no longer needed, as the reality has

come. So the ceremonial law finds its completion in Christ and thus is no longer practiced. The blood of bulls and goat would never pay for sins- and when the perfect sacrifice came these other sacrifices are put away. As BC art. 25 states, the ceremonies and symbols of the law have ended with the coming of Christ, and that all foreshadowings have come to an end. Thus their uses are to be abolished because their substance has been fulfilled in Christ! Secondly, Jesus completed all that was necessary in His suffering and humiliation. All that was necessary for me to suffer- every pain that I must endure- all that was needed for me to carry has been borne! I have done it all! I have descended the steps of humiliation until I have suffered hell- and now that is done! Although I had to be forsaken by the Father- now I am no longer forsaken! Now I am reunited and restored! Since His suffering was complete, no more suffering for sin was needed! Not by Jesus- and not by us! As I Peter 3:18 says, He suffered and died- once for all! After the cross comes the crown- His suffering is complete. The suffering of Jesus was a one-time event. As Heb. 9:25 puts it- it was not to offer Himself repeatedly, for else Christ would have needed to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, He suffered once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. The curse was poured out- the cup of wrath drunk- and sin was paid for. The storm is fully spent- and Jesus said- it is finished! Everything that is necessary is here found in Him! It is finished- all of it! Thirdly, Jesus finished His work in purchasing our salvation. By His death He purchased the complete forgiveness of all our sins! The debt has been paid; the ransom price secured. All that was necessary for our salvation has been here completed in Christ. From our justification to our sanctification; from our adoption to our glorification- all that is needed has been here provided! When Jesus said- it is finished- we should hear- my work in saving you has been made complete! You do not need to suffer and die for your sins- I have done that- it is finished! Salvation is a gift that has been attained- it is freely given to you without cost and without payment! I have finished what is necessary for you to be saved! In this we find our comfort and peace! All that was needed has here been provided! The whole point of the cross- the whole point of the

incarnation- was here finished! The reason I came is now complete! Fourth of all, Jesus finished His battle against Satan! Where Satan once fancied himself as the ruler of this world- as he lead the nations into bondage- no longer will he deceive the nations as Rev. 20 says. Satan has been knocked off his throne and the gospel is going forth and the Spirit of liberty and life is changing hearts and lives! Jesus says to Satan- your hold on this world is finished! By His death, Jesus destroyed him who had the power of death by suffering death in His own body as Heb. 2:14 says. Jesus destroyed the devil's hold on man because the accusation of sin- which is a weapon of the devil- has been annulled! Satan can bring no charge against God's elect- because Jesus said- It is finished! And this applies to our current life as well- sin is not the stronger- and we are not slaves to Satan! You do not need to remain in the old way of life and in bondage to sin- I have broken its hold. All of these blessings are ours- because Jesus said- it is finished! My love for you has been made evident- my submission to the Father's will- and my complete atonement and sacrifice offered- it is done- and I have finished it! I have run the race- I have reached the goal- and now there is stored up for me the glory and the honor that has been promised! We are left hopeless in our sin and slavery until we hear those words- it is finished!

To conclude, words can have powerful meaning. When a young lady is asked- will you marry me? All she has to do is say- Yes! When an accused man stands before a judge asking the question- what will become of me? All the judge has to say is- Not Guilty! When Jesus come to the end of His life, we ask this question. Jesus, did you do what was necessary? Did you gain the salvation that we need? Did you obey your Father and deliver us from sin, death and hell? Is your suffering and sacrifice complete and sufficient for us? All Jesus had to say was this- it is finished! Jesus Christ completed all aspects of His earthly ministry for the sake of our comfort and salvation. Praise God that Jesus has said it!