

# **Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus**

**47) It is Finished**

***'Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home'***

**(John 19:25-27)**

- ✓ **There were 5 people at the cross. They were brave to remain at the cross in support of Him: 1) It was dangerous to be seen supporting one whom Rome had executed as a criminal; 2) The Jewish leaders regarded Him as a heretic and impostor, so they ran the risk of persecution too**
- ✓ **Jesus committed His mother to the care of John. None of Jesus' brothers were present at the cross, neither were they disciples at this stage. He left His mother with a believer**
- ✓ **He thought of her loneliness and well-being while He was suffering for the sins of the world**

- ✓ **Jesus did not call her 'mother' from the cross, in order to emphasize that our relationship to Him is far greater than the closest blood relationship could ever be.**  
*'Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer'* **(2 Cor.5:16)**
- ✓ **At the dedication of Jesus as a baby, Simeon took Him in his arms and blessed Him. Yet he also said this to Mary: 'A sword will pierce through your own soul also'** **(Luke 2:35)**

*'After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit'*

**(John 19:28-30)**

✓ **'I thirst'. This was a fulfillment of, 'They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink' (Psa.69:21)**

✓ **'It is finished!' (tetelestai) was not a cry of despair, but that of a victor. It was used in the first and second centuries concerning the complete payment of a debt, often appearing on receipts. It means nothing further is needed to be done. It is in the perfect tense**

✓ **Unlike any other person, Jesus gave up His spirit. No one took His life from Him. Death had no righteous hold over Him because He was sinless. He stood in the place of sinners, but was not a sinner Himself. He could not die unless He gave up His spirit**

***'Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced"'***

**(John 19:31-37)**

✓ **A crucified person could linger for 2-3 days before death finally took place. The Jews did not want the bodies of the crucified to remain on the cross on the sabbath, 'If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God' (Deut.21:22-23). So the soldiers would break the legs of the victims**

✓ **The consciences of the Jewish leaders were not bothered by the murder of Jesus, but they were very concerned about ceremonial pollution**



- ✓ **Jesus, however, was already dead. A soldier, seemingly randomly, pierced His side with a spear to ensure He was dead**
- ✓ **This fulfilled, 'In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones' (Ex.12:46), and, 'And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn' (Zech.12:10). His bones were not broken; His body was pierced. The piercing has been done, but the Jews 'looking upon' with 'mourning' and 'supplication,' is future**

**\*As Eve was taken from the side of Adam, so the Church was brought forth from the side of Jesus**

**\*John takes four verses to describe the verification of His death. He was an eyewitness and testifies that Jesus' humanity and His death were real. He probably did this to refute doceticism. The Son really did become flesh and really did die. John witnessed this himself**

**\*See also, *'This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written'* (John 21:24-25)**

***'After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby'***

**(John 19:38-42)**

**\*The bodies of criminals were usually thrown into a common pit. But Joseph of Arimathea requested the body for burial**

**\*He was a member of the Sanhedrin and a wealthy man, *'And they made His grave with the wicked—but with the rich at His death'* (Isa.53:9)**

**\*This was very brave of Joseph because he publicly identified himself with Jesus**

**\*Nicodemus also helped in the burial, publicly identifying himself with Jesus. His faith and boldness finally matured**

**\*The power of Jesus' death turned cowards into heroes**

**\*One of the customs of the Jews in preparing a body for burial was the requirement to remove all foreign matter from the body and to carefully wash it and wrap it in gravecloths**

**\*This would have been difficult for Joseph and Nicodemus to do, both practically and emotionally**

**\*The spices were of a large amount and expensive. Myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. This revealed both Nicodemus's wealth and his devotion and affection for Jesus**

**\*The burial was hasty because it had to be completed before sundown. The place of burial was a private garden, not a public cemetery. He was laid in a rock hewn tomb**

**\*In God's plan the burial of Jesus was so important that it is one of the essential components of the gospel itself, 'Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures' (1 Cor.15:1-4)**

**\*It fulfilled Scripture, e.g. Isa.53:9; Matt.12:40**

**\*The burial confirmed that Jesus was truly dead. No one could tell Joseph of Arimathea or Nicodemus that Jesus did not really die**

**\*We are buried with Him. Burial testifies to the finality of the past. *'...buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses'* (Col.2:12-13)**