



Seven—The Seven Final Words of Jesus
“It is finished.” and “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”
John 19:30; Luke 23:44-46; Psalm 31:1-5;
1 Peter 2:21-25; Acts 2:38

April 9, 2023

DAILY DEVOTION

Find a rhythm in God’s word this week! Follow this 5 day plan on your own or with your group!

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/30567-easter>

INSPIRATION

“Since Christ embraced the cross itself, dare I
His image, th’ image of His cross, deny?”

From the first line of John Donne’s poem *The Cross*, he challenges us to acknowledge Jesus’ willing sacrifice for us on the cross and not deny the salvation it provides. Jesus “breathed his last” (Luke 23:46), but death was not the end. The angels announced, “he is risen!” (Luke 24:6). Easter changed everything. Have you embraced the risen Jesus and his sacrifice for you?

ICE BREAKER

1. What was a difficult task you completed or a goal you accomplished, whether it was emotional, physical or otherwise? Did this task have a purpose, or benefit you or someone else in some way? Explain.
 2. Explain how accomplishing this task required commitment?
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DEEP DIVE

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

“It is finished” took on a whole new meaning. It truly was a shout of victory and not defeat. Jesus had fulfilled the law and the prophets. The old system was finished. Jesus had lived a sinless life, so he could be the ultimate sacrifice that would clear the way for me to be in heaven. My sins were dead and buried.



Hopelessness was finished. Death was finished. Satan was finished.

'Into your hands I commit my spirit.'

Read John 19:30; Luke 23:44-46 and Psalm 31:5 and then answer the following questions:

3. The lessons in this series focus on statements Jesus made on the cross. This lesson addresses Jesus' two final statements before he died. When Jesus declared, "It is finished," what did he mean, i.e., what was the "it" he was referring to? Explain how the "it" in the phrase "It is finished" could have been one (or all) of the following:
 - (a) Jesus' earthly life and obedience to his Father's will;
 - (b) The end of the Old Testament law and sacrifices to cover sin;
 - (c) The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy concerning the Messiah;
 - (d) The completion of God's plan of redemption by the ultimate sacrifice.
4. As Jesus died on the cross, "the curtain of the Temple was torn in two" (Luke 23:44-46). The curtain separated man from the most holy area of the Temple and the presence of God. Explain how the curtain's destruction signifies our access to God because of Jesus' sacrifice. How does the destruction of the curtain and the separation it created support Jesus' statement, "It is finished"?
5. Jesus' last statement before "he breathed his last" was "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." How does his final statement show the critical importance of our commitment and trust in God?
6. Explain how Jesus' use of a phrase from the Old Testament (Psalm 31:5) as his last statement demonstrates he was fulfilling Old Testament prophecy. Explain how David's prayer in Psalm 31:1-5, which Jesus referred to on the cross, can provide comfort during difficulty.

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

"Repent, to turn your life over to the Messiah. Follow Him. Obey Him. To turn toward Him. Embrace Him and His teachings.

You have been walking in the wrong direction. It is time to turn around.

Be baptized.

Baptism is Easter. It is death, burial, and resurrection. You are buried with Christ and raised with him. You are a brand new person when you come up out of the water. You now have Jesus with you. Your sins have been washed away."

Read 1 Peter 2:21-25 and Acts 2:38 and then answer the following questions:

7. Based on 1 Peter 2:21-25, compare and contrast how Peter describes Jesus and how he describe us. How do these descriptions reveal our need for "the Shepherd"?
8. Given our need for Jesus as our Shepherd, what are Peter's instructions in Acts 2:38?



Additional Study

If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about the message topic, read and consider the following passages:

- Mark 16:1-13
- Acts 22:16
- Matthew 1:16-25
- Isaiah 53:4-6

NEXT STEPS

9. As John Donne's poem above reflects, we can embrace Jesus' sacrifice or turn away from it. Are you wandering in need of the Shepherd, or have you committed to Jesus? Do you want to repent, be baptized and declare "It is finished"?
10. Who can you share the meaning of Easter with this week?

PRAYER

1. I pray that you, Lord, will open the hearts of my family and friends, and lead them to accept your gift of grace. Help them realize the meaning of Easter.
2. Lord, if I have not yet committed to you, help me to have an open heart to the truth. Help me realize that honest questions are not disrespectful, because I am confident you have the answers.

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

- BENSON - Serve with us at ABIDE every other 2nd Saturday.
- MILLARD - Serve with us at Heartland Hope every other 4th Saturday.
- FREMONT - Serve with us at LifeHouse every 3rd Tuesday.
- OMAHA - Serve with us at Open Door Mission every other 4th Saturday.
- Or get to know your community, are there any needs/volunteer opportunities?