

ROAD TO EASTER
IT IS FINISHED

Thursday, March 28

Reading: John 19:23-30

John 19:30 *When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.*

A crucifixion detail was made up of four soldiers and a centurion. The centurion would not participate in "dividing the spoils" but the other soldiers divided the condemned man's clothes between them. When they came to Jesus' undertunic, they found it to be more valuable - woven in one piece. They decided to gamble for this tunic. Without knowing it, these callous soldiers were fulfilling prophecy (see Psalm 22:8).

Standing bravely beneath the cross is Jesus' mother, the disciple John, and a group of other women who followed Jesus. It was a common practice for Jewish mothers to give their sons a tunic before they left home. Early traditions state that Mary did this for Jesus. The other pieces of clothing were just things to Jesus, but this tunic was dear to His heart and when the soldiers started gambling for it His thoughts would have naturally turned to His mother who had made it. He places Mary in the care of His beloved disciple. "From that hour" (NKJV) may imply that John took Mary away from Golgotha immediately so as not to see the full suffering her Son would endure during the hours of darkness when He bore the sins of the world. Neither Mary or John are mentioned with the women who watch Jesus' death and burial in the other gospels.

John passes over the hours of darkness and the scoffing mob. He instead focuses on Jesus' last words from the cross. His cry of thirst not only emphasizes the physical suffering of crucifixion but was the last prophecy that needed to be fulfilled (see Psalm 69:21). The loud cry recorded in the other gospels should be equated with His cry, "It is finished!" recorded by John. With this cry of victory, Jesus gave up His spirit. Jesus stayed in control to the end. He fulfilled His own words that He would lay down His life and no one could take it from Him (John 10:17-18).

LESSON ONE: "Behold Your Son!" As He hung on the cross, Jesus was thinking of others. He had asked the Father to forgive those who were killing Him (Luke 23:34). He had promised the repentant thief of his place in paradise (Luke 23:42-43). And here He makes sure that His mother is cared for. Do we think of the needs of others even while struggling ourselves? What must we do to better see people through Jesus' eyes?

LESSON TWO: "It Is Finished." The great English preacher Charles Spurgeon¹ lists several things that were finished in the death of Christ.

- (1) All the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament concerning Messiah's death were accomplished.
- (2) The Jewish sacrificial system was finished as the final atonement was made by the Lamb of God.
- (3) Jesus' perfect obedience to the Father was finished.
- (4) The payment that was needed to satisfy the justice of God for sin had been paid.
- (5) The power of Satan, sin, and death had been totally defeated.

There is nothing we can or must do to gain salvation. 'Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe!'

¹ Charles Spurgeon. Christ's Words from the Cross, p. 89-95