

Study Guide: “The Last Words of Jesus”

Carter Sanger, April 2009

Read John 19:17-30, then discuss the following.

Introduction

- Have you ever taken one of those steps that leave no turning back? Have you made a decision that left you forever changed? What was it? What made things different? Why couldn't you turn back? The gospel is like that. It changes everything.

I. “It is Finished”

The way we understand this statement determines whether or not we understand anything about the gospel. If we miss it, we miss everything.

- What do you think Jesus is referring to when he says “it” is finished? What is the “it”?
- Jesus and the gospel writers refer to Jesus as fulfilling a variety of things. What comes to mind? Many of the passages talk about fulfilling prophecy such as John 19:24, 28, 30. The fulfillment of Scripture shows that Jesus is the one to whom the prophets pointed. Others talk about Jesus fulfilling the law. How do these contribute to our understanding of what Jesus finished?
- When others have asked Jesus what they must do to inherit eternal life, how has he answered? (Read Mark 10:17-22 and Luke 10:25-29) Is it possible? If you're not sure, read Matthew 5:48 which is the conclusion of Jesus' sermon on the mount.
- In other religions, who is it that gains God's favor? Do you see Christianity any differently? If so, how does this impact your view of engaging in good works?

II. I Thirst.

Jesus wasn't just thirsty. There was more behind his statement.

- Read John 19:24. The passage being fulfilled is Psalm 22. Read this psalm and note the reason for the psalmist's suffering. What is it?
- Name the many ways that Jesus is treated like a criminal in John 19. Why is Jesus being presented as such?

- Why is it significant that Jesus “went out” of the city before he was crucified? (Read Exodus 29:14 and Leviticus 13:46) What could not be in the camp? What made “inside” the camp so sacred?
- What does this say as to the seriousness of sin? Do we treat our sin with this same seriousness? Why or why not?

III. “Woman, behold, your son! Behold, your mother!”

If Jesus finished the work and it is a work of such significance, then it changes everything – including our relationships.

- If something happened to you and you had small children, whose care would you put them in? Why?
- In a community so driven by family, does it strike you as odd that Jesus would pass over his step-brothers for his care of his Mother? What does this say about the importance of relationships built on the gospel? What does this say about the importance of Christian community – that is, the local church?
- Jesus words also say something about the importance of your family. Have you ever sacrificed your family's well-being for the sake of some other pursuit?

Wrap-up

For a genuine Christian, there is no turning back. The purchase price is paid. You have been fully redeemed. The gospel changes everything, making real community not just a possibility, but a reality.

- Will you commit yourself to Christ?
- Will you commit yourself to the community of the gospel - the body of Christ?

Who is Jesus?

Gospel of John

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to whoever will come -
this church opens wide her doors and invites you to

CHANGE EVERYTHING

Who is Jesus?

A Look at the Gospel of John

Discussion Guide:

“Last Words of Jesus”

John 19:17-30

April 5, 2009