

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

IT IS FINISHED - JOHN 19 : 17-42

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER

Today's momentous passage encompasses a key statement from the Apostles' Creed: 'He was crucified, died, and was buried'.

Why is it so important for us as Christian believers to understand not just **what** happened as Jesus died, but **why** it happened?

(See John 20 : 31)



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Read John 19 : 17-42

In **verse 19** we read that a notice was fastened to the cross. This was customary to show the crime of which the criminal was accused. Jesus' 'crime' was that he was the King of the Jews.

- How are the words of Jesus' notice significant – for the people looking on and for us today? *Look at verses 19-21.*

Look at Luke 2 : 34-35

- How did the words of Simeon to the young mother Mary come true in **John 19 : 25-27**?
- How was Mary's servant heart noticed and affirmed by God, even as Jesus was dying?



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Jesus' words 'It is finished' translate from the Greek text as 'It is finished; it stands finished; and it always will be finished!'

- How does this remind us of grace?
- Think about what we have read so far in John's account of Jesus' last days, and his purpose in writing (John 20 : 31). What does John want us to understand from these three words 'It is finished'? (see verses 24, 28 and especially verse 36).

Note: this phrase is also what an Old Testament priest would say when he examined an animal sacrifice and found it faultless – because of Jesus' death, we are helped to understand the ceremonies and prophecies of the OT.



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The sacrificial death of Jesus is a major theme in John's gospel. There are a number of pictures throughout the gospel which make this clear.

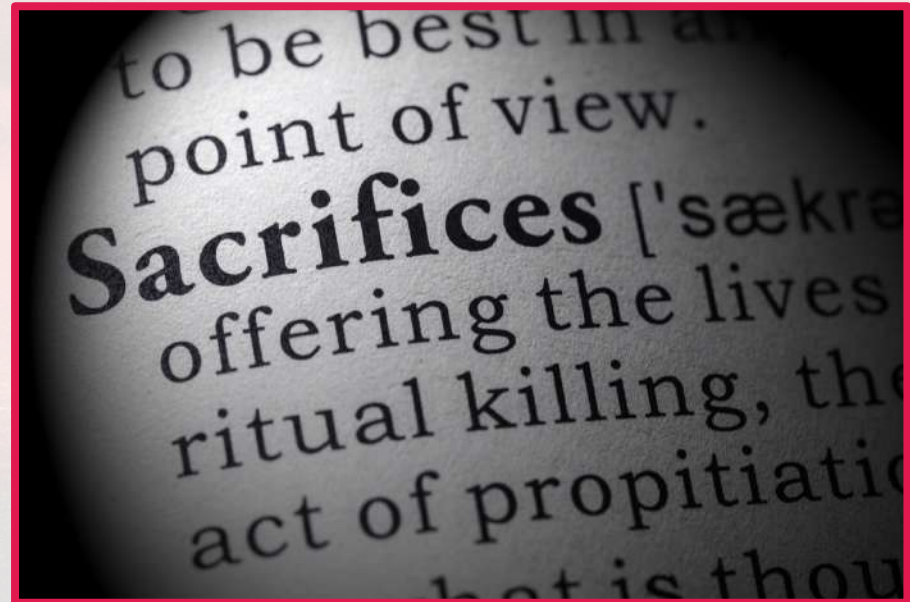
Look at: the Lamb (John 1 : 29); the temple (John 2 : 19); the snake (John 3 : 14); the shepherd (John 10 : 11-18); the seed (John 12 : 20-25)

- Why do you think it is so important to understand that Jesus' death was not an accident or a murder, but a mission?

Jesus' body is taken away for burial by two significant figures – prominent members of the Jewish council. Of course, we already know Nicodemus from John 3 – 'the man who...had visited Jesus at night' (**John 19 : 39**)

Look at Mark 15 : 43; and John 7 : 50-53 to see other places where their actions showed the journey they were on.

- What strikes you about the journey and the actions of these two men?
- Are there situations in your life currently where you are being challenged to stand up bravely for your faith? **Pray together with your group.**



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THINK & PRAY



- How does this passage help us to see that Jesus is the Son of God?
- What does it mean to have life in his name?
- What does a response to belief in Jesus look like?