

A Kingly Mission Completed

Tyler Velin | July 22, 2012 | John 19:16b-30

My name is Tyler, I'm one of the pastors here. We are buttoning up the book of John this summer, and can I just say I have loved going through this book. John is distinct from the other gospels because John is writing not so much a historical narrative account of Jesus' life, but rather a theological narrative account of Jesus' life.

What John has showed us in these past two years is that who Jesus is, really matters. That is why this series is titled "Jesus is..." Because depending upon how you answer that question, you either reject or accept a truth. Jesus either is who you think he is, or he is not. Yet all the while, Jesus is something. Who Jesus is, is not dependant upon you believing it. Jesus is, and you have to respond to that. We will talk about that in a little bit.

But I want to be honest with you today. I would bet 99.9% of you have heard a message similar to this. I would bet a large majority of that has even heard a similar message in this church, most likely in the past month.

That's because the cross of Christ carried with it an immense gravitas. Gravitas is a latin word, which basically means gravity. Gravity has a central pull. Our solar system is held where it is because the sun exerts a certain gravity on the planets surrounding it. When I stand in the middle of a trampoline, children are sucked towards my feet, because I exert a certain gravitas. And every sunday, millions and millions of people gather in churches throughout the world because the cross has gravitas.

We do not wish to outrun the force of the cross, nor can we outrun the pull of the cross. But we wish to be held in awestruck wonder at the pull and power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament was drawn to the cross. In Genesis 2 we see the institution of marriage, which Paul says has less to do about two humans, but everything to do with Jesus dying for his church. In Genesis 3 we see the protoevangelium, where the serpent will strike the offspring of Eve, but the offspring will crush the serpent's skull. Job (Job 16) says that his witness is in heaven who will one day argue the case of man before God. In Ruth we see the line of David established, which will ultimately produce Jesus, the serpent crusher. In the Psalms we see David's heart ache for a redemption from a sinful flesh and corrupted world. In Isaiah 53 we see the suffering servant who will make intercession for many. In the minor prophets we see a hope for an ultimate kingdom, a messiah who will establish himself as the true King from the line of Judah.

In the new testament the church of Acts goes forth proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. Paul says he chooses to know nothing among us but Christ and him crucified. In Colossians he says he set aside our record of debt by nailing it to a tree. Peter says he himself bore our sin in his body on the tree. The author of Hebrews says we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. James confirms

that the cross of Christ demands action. John says in this is love that Christ died for our sins. Jude says that we must persevere since Christ's sacrifice has bought the victory. Revelation says that one day the slaughtered lamb will come back, and he will crush the head of the serpent once and for all.

We take a posture of being drawn to Christ, because we, along with the rest of human history cannot escape the kingship, the mission, and the result of Jesus' work on the cross.

That is what I want us to focus on today. The cross shows three things in this text. The kingship of Jesus, the mission of Jesus, and the result of Jesus.

So what I'm going to do is I am going to read our whole passage today, then we are going to pray, and then we are going to look at these three aspects of the cross.

John 19:16-30

Pray

Now there are a lot of things we can address in this passage. There are a couple passages here where John shows how the acts unfolding explicitly fulfilled some OT prophecies. Those are very important, but we will not talk about them in this sermon. What I have done though, and it will be published this week, is write a blog which shows all of the OT prophecies and allusions that John used in chapters 18 and 19 and talks about their relationship to the text.

I will also not spend time on the scene where Jesus gave his mother away to the care of John. But I will say this, Jesus was the Christ. If anyone was sufficiently big for his britches and could have been exempt from honoring his father and mother, it would have been Jesus. But Jesus, even in his dying breath honored his mother by making sure she would be taken care of. Jesus honored his parents and so should you.

But I am going to focus on verses **19-22**.

So here is a little geography lesson, Golgotha, the place where Jesus was crucified was just outside the gates of Jerusalem. Because of that, many people would show up to watch executions, they were deemed a public activity. Also because the place of execution was so close to a city gate, many people walked by going to and from Jerusalem.

To help push their points, the Roman officials would make plaques which listed the crimes these people committed so that observers would know, you steal, you get crucified. Pilate made Jesus' and wrote on it "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

Now I love how John tells us that "many Jews" read this, and on top of that it was written in Aramaic, which was the dominant language of the Jews, Latin, which was the official language of the area, and Greek, which was the international or trade language. What John was saying, was that many people, from every walk of life, was able to gaze at the cross and read clearly the inscription written on it.

Now the Pharisees do not like the clarity of this message. In fact they go and petition Pilate saying, "Hey, instead of saying he is King of the Jews, say he claims to be King of the Jews."

They don't want him to look like a King, they don't want people to claim he is King. Let me tell you, it is no accident that Pilate wrote what he wrote. Now Pilate had no intention of making Jesus look like a king, but God did. Jesus was King of the Jews.

Even in his dying moments a banner of triumph was hung over his head for all to see. The exaltation had begun. Jesus is not only King of the Jews, he is king over all things. From him, through him and to him are all things.

You see the Pharisees refused to accept it, but even if you deny it: Jesus is your king. You can be sitting in here today as the most hardened atheist in the world, but no matter how much you fight it, you cannot change this fact. There are two options here, you can either choose to reject Jesus' kingship or accept it. Your response doesn't change his role.

This story was not written so that Jesus could be anything other than a King. This story was not written so that Jesus could be king over those who believe him. This story was written because Jesus is king over all people everywhere, and one day, rather than in latin, greek and aramaic, every tribe and every nation will bow down and confess with their tongue that Jesus is King.

Even to the unbelieving eye, Jesus was shown as a king on the cross. The cross establishes Jesus as the glorious king who has conquered.

The cross established Jesus' mission. We see this in **19:28-30**. Actually these verses prove my next two points. These verses show the mission of Jesus and they show the result of Jesus.

They prove the mission of Jesus in that everything Jesus came to accomplish was completed at the cross. We saw time and time again in this book that Jesus came to accomplish the will of the father, that Jesus came to give glory to the father, that Jesus came to seek and save the lost, that Jesus came to bear witness to the truth, that Jesus came to set the captives free, to restore sight to the blind, to establish his kingship forever.

All of that was accomplished on the cross. On the cross, Jesus finished his mission. Now finished here, means finished. The perfect tense word means finished forever, completely, in ultimate finality.

Jesus accomplished all he wanted to accomplish on the cross and this helps us to shape our mission.

You see Jesus came and he healed people, he provided for people, he fed people, he cared for people, he loved on people, he had compassion on people. Yet as Jesus died, there were still sick people, there were still poor people, there were still hungry people, there were still needy people, there were still unloved people, and there were still people needing relief. Yet Jesus said "It is finished."

This tells us that as loving and caring as Jesus was to meet the physical needs of people, Jesus' mission was not to feed the poor and love on the brokenhearted. Jesus mission was to

die for sinners. Jesus' mission was to execute the gospel. He used his mercy ministry as a means, but never as an end.

That means that you can dig wells until your hands fall off, cure aids, build orphanages, yet if you do not share the gospel of Christ and him crucified you are not living in the finality of Jesus' mission.

Now do not put words in my mouth here. I am not saying that we should not give, love, serve and help those who are in need, but what I am saying is that the distinction between Christian aid and secular aid is that we provide ultimate love. Love the Lord your God with all your heart soul mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself, that is our call for mission and it begins with Christ's completed work on the cross.

Now think about this, Love your neighbor as yourself. If you see that line, and you assume from that your greatest mission is to provide relief and physical needs to those around you, what have you just said about the object which you love the most. If we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and the first things that pops to our minds are physical, then we have just showed that what we love most is that which is physical.

If we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength to love someone as we love ourselves is to share with them that which we love most, the Lord our God. So do meet physical needs. Volunteer in your community, serve your community, give to mission organizations, go to Africa, but in so doing do not neglect the mission of Christ.

Mission is not, go and complete what needs to be finished. Rather mission is go and continue in what is already accomplished, that is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now the result of the cross. Same text. **19:28-30**. Jesus' mission was completed in the cross. He died for sins, he took the wrath of God, so that you didn't have to, he bought with ultimate finality freedom. In so doing, the result is that you are finished in Christ.

This is why the cross has gravitas. At the moment of Christ's crucifixion, we see in the other gospels that the veil in the temple which separate the presence of God from the people, was torn in two by an invisible hand. That means that you, you miserable wretched sinner are now a pure, righteous, blood bought child of God.

Jesus' work in you is finished, that is enough. When Jesus died, every one who has believed in Jesus, and everyone who will believe in Jesus was secured by his sacrifice on the cross. There is no limit to the power of the cross. There is no maybes when it comes to the cross. There isn't a cross plus, there isn't a cross minus, there is the cross and that was enough to satisfy God, and secure salvation for those who confess with their mouths and believe in their hearts that Jesus Christ is Lord. You are here because Christ purchased you.

For those of you who say, you don't know my sin, you don't know my shame, you don't know what I have done....It is finished, **there is now therefore no condemnation in Christ Jesus**. The cross is enough.

For those of you who say, I have so much hurt in my life, how can that which is unseen provide me the comfort I need now...It is finished, **Come to me, all who labor and are heavy**

laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Rest in the cross. It is finished.

For those of you who say, I know you came to seek and save the lost, but I look around in the world and I see so much pain, so much hurt and so much destruction, how can a good God allow this to happen...It is finished. **For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.** Find peace knowing that the cross enabled Jesus to come back once more and not only destroy the punishment of sin, but the reality of sin. But know in the time being God works all things for his good. It is finished.

For those who wrestle with sin, and say I need to fix this sin and then Jesus will love me again...It is finished. **“We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.”** Rest in Christ’s victory over sin, live in his life, be mindful of his victory. It is finished.

For those of you who are burned out trying to fix your life, and tired of failure, for those of you who feel like the faith is too hard and the journey too long...it is finished. **“Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?” “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”** Fight the good fight, keep the faith, look to Christ. It is finished.

For those of you in here who I cannot possibly describe. To the unbelieving, to the broken beyond repair, to the one who hopes I do not describe him, to the one who needs to hear it the most, to the chief of all sinners, to the burned and desolate...It is finished. **He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”** The cross was enough to fulfill the mission of Christ, enough to satisfy the wrath of God, enough to save the Children of God, the cross is enough for you. To break your sin, to heal your heart, to restore your soul. It is finished.