

It Is Finished (завршено е)

Isaiah 53v1-7

It was the will of the LORD that his servant grow like a plant taking root in dry ground. He had no dignity or beauty to make us take notice of him. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing that would draw us to him. ³We despised him and rejected him; he endured suffering and pain. No one would even look at him— we ignored him as if he were nothing. ⁴“But he endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God. But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received. All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the LORD made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved. “He was treated harshly, but endured it humbly; he never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word.

John 17v1-11

17 After Jesus finished saying this, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your Son, so that the Son may give glory to you. ²For you gave him authority over all people, so that he might **give eternal life to all those you gave him.** ³And eternal life means to know you, the only true God, and to know Jesus Christ, whom you sent. **⁴I have shown your glory on earth; I have finished the work you gave me to do.** ⁵Father! Give me glory in your presence now, the same glory I had with you before the world was made. ⁶“I have made you known to those you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me. They have obeyed your word, ⁷and now they know that everything you gave me comes from you. ⁸I gave them the message that you gave me, and they received it; they know that it is true that I came from you, and they believe that you sent me. ⁹“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those you gave me, for they belong to you. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine; and **my glory is shown through them.**

John 19v23-30

²³ After the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took the robe, which was made of one piece of woven cloth without any seams in it. ²⁴The soldiers said to one another, “Let’s not tear it; let’s throw dice to see who will get it.” This happened in order to make the scripture come true: “They divided my clothes among themselves and gambled for my robe.” And this is what the soldiers did. ²⁵ Standing close to Jesus’ cross were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, “He is your son.” ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “She is your mother.” From that time the disciple took her to live in his home. ²⁸ Jesus knew that by now everything had been completed; and in order to make the scripture come true, he said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A bowl was there, full of cheap wine; so a sponge was soaked in the wine, put on a stalk of hyssop, and lifted up to his lips. ³⁰ Jesus drank the wine and said, **“It is finished!”** Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit

Lost All

Looking up at the central figure from the gardens around Golgotha, it certainly looked like He had lost everything as he hung from the cross. He was arrested whilst praying, falsely accused and condemned by both the Temple and Roman authorities.

He had lost all his companions. He was separated from his family, from his disciples and from his followers. The only company he had now were two criminals that he didn’t know.

He had lost his ministry, his witness amongst the poor & the lost, the miracles, the parables; gone.

He had lost his possessions, not that he had much. But he did have a wonderful seamless tunic, woven on one of Nazareth’s special double looms. The soldiers had just thrown dice for that.

He had lost his looks. Heavily scourged by his captors, blood still wept from the wounds under his crown of thorns, from the whip marks on his back, and from the holes in his wrists and ankles caused by the Roman nails.

He had lost his tongue. There were those shouting at him and mocking him, but he kept silent.

As he hangs from the cross, it certainly looked like he had lost everything.

Then he breathed a huge breath, and the man who had lost everything, claims a mighty victory declaring - IT IS FINISHED.

Finished, Accomplished, Fulfilled, and Paid in full.

He speaks in Greek and it is a single word ‘Tetelestai’. This word in its various forms appears 28 times in the New Testament. We translate the word – It is finished, but it is used in 4 similar but

different ways.

- > When Jesus finishes a saying or finishes telling parables, it's Tetelestai; It is ended.
- > When Jesus successfully completes some work, then it's Tetelestai; It is accomplished.
- > When something that was prophesied is completed, then it's Tetelestai, It is fulfilled
- > When a debt or a required tribute is paid for, then it's Tetelestai. It is paid in full.

Jesus hangs naked from the cross having lost everything, and declares it is finished, it is ended; it is accomplished, it is fulfilled, and it is paid in full.

What has Jesus finished?

Why, when he looked like he was completely defeated, could he shout victoriously – it is finished. What had ended, what was accomplished, what was fulfilled, what was paid in full ?

Separation - ended.

It is often said from a person who is saved from drowning that those moments of near death seemed like hours as the mind becomes singularly active and the whole of his or her life is recalled. Of course we can only speculate what was going through the mind of Jesus as he hung on the cross, but at this very moment just before he gave up his body and breathed his last, it is as if his mind was so singularly active that the whole of his life played out in front of him. We know that he did not just live his 33 years in human form, but as we are told in Johns Gospel, that Jesus existed in some form or another from the beginning of time. So if Jesus sees his whole life, he can recall the entire existence of man, and the history of the Jewish people right up to that moment.

The Bible tells us that from the earliest days, man and woman were supposed to be in close fellowship with God, living in his presence, and enjoying being in God's presence, at one with Him. But because of Pride and Sin, entering so early into mankind's timeline, we find ourselves separated from God, from his presence. So in that moment of Death, Jesus can see Gods first breath into mankind, and the fellowship with God being broken, and then thousands of years of man struggling with this separation from God. Then knowing that at this very moment, because he had managed to live a blameless life, and been obedient to his Father to the point of death, that this sacrifice he was making would enable the end to that separation for all mankind.

What we see happening in the Jerusalem temple is symbolic of what is happening in heaven. When Jesus breathes his last breath and dies on the cross, the huge thick temple curtain separating normal priests and men from the Holy of Holies, where God was believed to dwell, was torn in two. In the spiritual realm this means God opening up access again to himself. It would now be possible once more for man to directly enter the presence of God.

Imagine there being a super-star entertainer that you have always admired but never met. You get a ticket to one of his concerts, but it's in this hug venue and you have back row seats. However when you go in you are given, a back-stage pass, access all areas, including the after-party. For the first time you can get up close and personal with your star, and spend some quality time in their presence. The death of Jesus is farm more valuable to us that that as it enables us to gives an 'access all areas pass' into the presence of God. Wow!

As Jesus looked back at the whole history of man's separation from God, he could say – Tetelestai; It is ended. **It is finished.**

New Way – Accomplished.

Jesus was a man on a mission, to bring in Gods new kingdom, a new way of living, a new freedom. As a young Rabbi, starting his ministry he went to his local synagogue and announced from Isaiah 61, that the Spirit of the Lord was upon him, that he had been sent to bring good news to the poor, he had been sent to heal the broken-hearted, he had been sent to announce release to the captives and freedom to those imprisoned (Is 61). He had come to break the chains that kept people in bondage to sickness, to routines, to addictions, to harmful life-styles, and to mental

illness. He had come to be a light in the darkness, he declared he was the Way, the Truth and the Life. He had come to be the way back to God.

John the Baptist sent his disciples to speak to Jesus (Luke 7v20-23). When they came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to ask if you are the one he said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?" He said "Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean, the deaf can hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor. How happy are those who have no doubts about me." Ouch !

He came to give new insights into Gods kingdom and show a new way for people live. He invested heavily for 3 years in his disciples so that that could carry on the work after he was no longer there in person. At the last supper he prayed for his disciples (John 17v10) and thanked God for his disciples that his glory would now be shown through them. They would no longer sacrifice animals, they would have fellowship meals together. They would go out in His name with His spirit, with healing in their hands and the Gospel truth on their lips. They would bring in the Kingdom of God. In the same prayer, Jesus declares to his Father **⁴I have shown your glory on earth; I have accomplished the work you gave me to do.** (John 17v4).

He may not have known where his mission would lead to when he embarked on it, but he was faithful to his Fathers voice and guidance, and knew that he had achieved all he had been sent to accomplish in his human body.

When the soldiers returned to Rome after a successful military campaign, parading their captives. They would shout 'Tetelestai, Tetelestai'. The mission has been accomplished.

As Jesus hung on the cross, he could look back at the mission from God he had been given, and repeat that declaration from his prayer

Tetelestai, It is accomplished. **It is finished.**

Prophecies - Fulfilled:

From start to finish the Old Testament is full of prophecies that point towards Jesus as the Messiah There are prophecies that tell us of who he was and where he came from. He would...

Be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

Be a descendant of King David (2 Sam 7:12-16)

Be called out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1)

Be called a Nazarene (Is 11v1 & 53.3)

Be called Gods Son (Ps 2:1-12)

There are prophecies that tell us what he will do. He will...

Bring a new Covenant agreement between the people and God (Jer 31v31)

Perform signs of healing (Is 35:5-6)

Be a great light to the nations of the world (Is 42:1-7))

Be the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace (Is 9:6-7)

Come in triumph riding on a donkey (Zech 9v9)

There are prophecies that tell us what he will suffer for our sakes. He will.

Be the rejected cornerstone (Ps 118:22-24)

Be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zech 11v12-13)

Be a suffering servant (Isaiah 48-50)

Be pierced for our sakes (Zech 12:10)

Be a willing sacrifice for us (Gen 22:1-18)

Be lifted up (Numbers 21:6-9)

Jesus, the Nazarene, who was born in Bethlehem and escaped to Egypt, was God's Son, a light to the World. He entered Jerusalem in triumph on a donkey, but was rejected, betrayed, and suffered as he was handed over to be crucified, was pierced and lifted high on the cross. When you looked

at some of the prophecies, they were so opposite that you would think they could not all be fulfilled in one man:

How could this prophecy be true 'All kings shall fall down before him, and all nations shall serve him' but at the same time 'He is despised and rejected of men' also be true.

How could he on the one hand be the 'roaring Lion of Judah, a mighty warrior king' and yet at the same time be 'led like a lamb to the slaughter'.

Yet every prophecy and promise in the Bible finds its fulfilment in and through this man, Jesus.

This Jesus who was God in heaven but becomes a baby on earth.

This Jesus, with whom the first are last, and the last are first.

This Jesus, for whom the foolish shame the wise, and the weak defeat the strong.

This Jesus whose cross provides our crown, our victory.

As Jesus hung on the cross and looking back over 2000 years of prophecy about himself, he could say... Tetelestai, **It is fulfilled. It is finished.**

My sin debts – Paid in Full

In the first century, guards would nail to the door of the cell, a list of the crimes that the prisoner had committed. When he had finished his sentence, the prisoner will receive the charge-sheet back, and it has stamped 'Tetelestai' – meaning the sentence is complete, the crimes have been paid for in full.

We know for each crime there is a punishment. For all our wrongs, our ultimate penalty is death. The Jews were allowed a way of being forgiven by God and that was through animal sacrifices. Why, because they believed life is in the blood, and when an animal's blood was spilt in death, there was a spiritual power released to forgive sins, but it was temporary. So for at least 1300 years they were regularly sacrificing animals. Yet on the cross, Jesus made the perfect sacrifice, because he had never sinned. When he died, there was no penalty for him to pay, so he could have gone straight to heaven. Death had no claim on him.

But on the cross, he chose, and was able to, take on the sins of everyone else. So when he died, some time after noon, when the sky had turned black, Death did have a claim on him, and he was dragged into the underworld, the home of his spiritual enemies. But Jesus is the Son of God, and as God, his spilt blood was infinitely more powerful than any goat or a sheep. From Friday to Monday morning he faced down Death, and one by one he paid for the Sins of each person that had lived, and would live, and still there was more forgiveness in Him. After 60 hours of relentlessly taking back the keys from death for each one of us, he had exhausted Death's claim on anyone, and his Father in heaven raised him up, and restored him to his body.

Imagine losing your job, and getting heavy into debt, the interest payments increase, and your debts spiral out of control. How would you feel, if some-one came along one day and paid off all your debts, all your credit cards and your mortgage. You emerge into the new day completely debt-free. How would you feel? The weight has gone, the chains are broken, you are set free and you emerge a new person.

That is why we call the day Jesus died Good Friday, and not Bad Friday. Because it was on that day that our debts were paid off. The blameless Son of God, had made this special one off payment with his own life-blood that would satisfy the sin payment needs of God once and for ever for all of us. On the cross, every debt is paid. Every wrong we have done in the past, every shortfall we experience today, every sin we will do in the future, every omission to do the right thing, every bad thought.

You need to come to Jesus and follow Him in order to receive those keys to eternal life. But when you come to him, it is like he takes out the charge-sheet which has on it all you have done wrong, and writes on it 'Tetelestai' – the crimes have been paid for in full.

Everything is underserved. Nothing is earned. It is a free gift made possible because of the Grace of God, who was prepared to sacrifice his own Son for you, for me. Why would he do that? Why – because he loves you, he loves me, with a love that is unimaginable, its unfathomable, its wider and deeper than our minds can grasp.

There was no grave that could hold the body of Jesus down, and because of the loving sacrifice he made for you at Easter, there is no grave that can hold you down either, if you are one with Him.

If Roman times if there was a bill to be paid, then a receipt might come back with the word 'Tetelestai' on it. The price has been paid.

Jesus looks down at the cross to each one of us, and all of our sins and with his blood spilt for you and me, he declares over each one of us.

Tetelestai – paid in full. **It is finished.**

More than a conqueror

Sunday morning at dawn, after the Sabbath rest day, Mary Magdalene and some other women go to anoint the body of Jesus with spices at the tomb where they had seen he was buried. On arrival they found the stone had been rolled away and the body gone. He had Risen. He had Risen Indeed. But where had he gone? Where would we have gone.

I think if I was Jesus, I might have gone back into Jerusalem with two heavily armed angels, and demanded to see the Roman leader Pontius Pilate, King Herod, and the High Priest Caiaphas, made them kneel. Perhaps get a rousing trumpet intro from Angelic musicians, then say ' Guess what – I actually was the Son of God, and now you lot are in real trouble with me and my Dad'. Then I would take my throne as the rightful king of Israel and bring in a new era of the kingdom of God on Earth amongst the Jews and Gentiles. But he didn't do anything like that.

Instead he went to his frightened disciples who were gathered behind a locked door, and simply said "Peace be with you." He showed them the holes in his hands and side, as proof it was him. However the resurrection day had transformed his wounds from marks of torture, to marks of love, his willing love to suffer for others.

Throughout his life on earth Jesus had been wounded many times. His own family, his disciples, and followers had doubted him or rejected him many times. His accusers had tried to stone him, throw him off a cliff, and eventually plotted his murder. He never tried to defend himself or ever boasted about his achievements. He never called on heavenly intervention to lessen his persecution or suffering. He suffered all his wounds and pains with patience and with no bitterness. He never let anything disturb his Peace. It never once hardened his heart to those who let him down, or those who rejected him, or those who abused him, or even to those who killed him. Even from the cross he prayed over them 'Forgive them Father, for they don't know what they are doing' (Luke 23v34).

There was to be no shows of power from King Jesus, this Lion of Judah. There was none of the normal conquerors attitude in the response of Jesus. Why? Because he is more than a conqueror. He was going to take everything that had been thrown at him, without any revenge or noise, but move forwards with gentleness, humility and love. The way of the **Lamb** had defeated and conquered death. He wanted them to know that he was the Prince of Peace and **not** war. It is Love that wins the day. It is love that makes a difference in this world. That was the example he was showing his disciples.

Go in peace

Jesus said to them again 'Peace be with you – as the Father sent me, so I send you' Then he breathed on them and said 'Receive the Holy Spirit'. (John 20v21-22).

He had shown his disciples that he was indeed the risen Messiah, all the prophecies had come true in him. They were no longer separated from God and there was no more need for them to make animal sacrifices. His blood spilt on the Friday had seen off death once and for all. All their sins had been paid for. The separation between them and God had ended, and to demonstrate this he breathes on them and they receive the Holy Spirit. This was a foretaste of what they would receive in full 7 weeks later on the day of Pentecost.

So the separation from God was ended, the prophecies had been fulfilled, and the debts of Sin had been paid for, so to that extent it was finished, but his ministry on earth had **not** been accomplished, only that part that Jesus needed to do physically himself on earth. This included teaching the disciples all that they needed to take the Good News of Jesus to all people, so they could now be his hands and feet on earth.

After showing them the wounds, and he commissions them to go out in the world and do the same. ' AS the Father sent me, I am sending you'. Go out into the worlds as lambs amongst wolves.

Our response to Easter.

What Jesus did on the cross was for you, because he loves you. There is nothing you can do to earn Gods love, it is a free gift because of Jesus. We do not need to strive for God love or acceptance. Jesus has already done it all for us. We are no longer separated from God because our debts are paid in full.

Even though the numbers of those that follow Jesus have grown from the few back then, to an estimated 2 billion now, the ministry of Jesus is still not accomplished. It is not finished.

And like the first disciples, Jesus says again to us today. "Go in Peace, and as the Father sent me I send you, like lambs amongst wolves, Receive the Holy Spirit, and be empowered to be my hands and feet on earth, and do the things that I would have done.

You will not be crucified, but you will be criticized.

You will not be hung up on a cross, but you may be hung out to dry for something you never did.

Are you feeling 'hurt' today?

Go in my love. Take my love. Be ready to forgive others, as you were forgiven. Don't let those that hurt you, harden your heart. Don't let those that reject you, rob you of your Peace. Don't be bitter with those that tell lies about you. If we have his humility in our heart we are free not to worry what others say or think about us, or do to us. We do not have to justify ourselves, or defend our actions. In this place we do not have to fight for position or recognition. Say, 'God knows who I am, and I know who I am'. That is sufficient. Say 'It is finished' to any bitterness you feel today.

Are you feeling fearful or anxious today?

Have you let the what-ifs of life weigh you down. What if she doesn't get better? What if this relationship doesn't work out? What if I make the wrong decision? What if I fail my exams? What if I lose my job? What if I can't pay my bills? What if? What if? If the 'what-ifs' take control then we take out a mortgage in the house of fear. But Jesus came to put an end to that, we are no longer a slaves of fear, we are a child of God, and we **can** trust in his love, his strength and guidance to uphold us and keep us. Say 'It is finished' to your fears today.

In Jesus you have the victory over death, over hurts, over fears, but you should not have the attitude of a conqueror, you are more than that. Go in peace, be his hands and his feet and take this Easter message of unfathomable love to a needy world all around you. So when you breathe your last breath you will be able to look back over your life, and the work you have done for him, and say – It is Finished. Amen.

It is Finished - Easter day 2019 (Highbury)

OT Reading : Isaiah 53v1-7 Gospel Reading: John 19v23-30

All is Lost – friends, ministry, possessions, appearance, tongue.

Victory shout – IIF

Tetelestai - 28: Finished, accomplished, Fulfilled, Paid in Full.

Separatn: drowning; recall history;

Finished Blameless sacrifice=>end of sep; curtain; backstage

New Way: Is 61 Sp Lrd; Gd News 2; heal hearts; release, freedm

Accomplished JtheB – blind, lame, lepers, deaf, dead, GN2Pr: Doubt

New way; Disciples; Jn 17 glory /finished. : **Rome**

Prophc's: List – Who & where; What he'll do ; What he'll suffer

Fulfilled **This Jesus.** Kgsvd; LionvLamb; Gdvvbaby; foolvwise.1stvlst

Debts: Charge-sheet; Sacrifices. J exhaust death 60h; **Raised**

Paid in full Debt/loans paid; Good Friday not bad – all debts paid.

J clears charge-sheet; Undeserved; Roman bill. Paid

More than Conqueror: Mary tomb; Where? No revenge or fanfare

Go in Peace*: Rejectd, Persecutd, Wound/not bitter. No hard heart.

Even on cross – forgive them.[Humility / forgiveness]

Ended, fulfilled and paid... but not accomplished !

Response: Free Gift. 2bn - not accomplished.

Go in Peace, criticized/hung out. Are you hurting? Say iif

Are you fearful – what if's. Trust God. Say iif.

Go into world with Easter Good New. At end look back say iif.

***Jesus said to them again 'Peace be with you,as the Father sent me, so I send you' Then he breathed on them & said 'Receive the Holy Spirit'.**

Franciscan Blessing

- May God bless you with discomfort, at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your hearts.
- May God bless you with anger, at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.
- May God bless you with tears, to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.
- And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done, to bring justice and kindness to all our children & the poor.