

Gospel of John: That You Might Believe

[John 19:17-42](#)

“It is Finished”– November 21, 2021



Introduction

One of the world's deceptions is its definition of success. Over and over we are told that success is gaining riches, enjoying pleasure, accruing power, and having the respect of others. Christianity operates on a different economy than the world. That is one of the reasons why following Jesus can be difficult. It looks like the world is going forward, and we are going in the opposite direction and that Jesus is wrong.

In John chapter 18 and the beginning of 19, we see Jesus arrested, put on trial first by the Jews and then by Pilate. He is mocked and beaten. So it seems that the enemy has won, that hope is slipping, and that Jesus is not who He claimed to be. But everything is not what it seems. John shows us that despite appearances, Jesus actually is the triumphant King of kings.

The Big Idea of this passage is: We know Jesus' death was not His defeat because it fulfilled God's plan to give life.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. The proud are humbled. Vs. 16-24
- II. The despairing find hope. Vs. 25-30
- III. The fearful are made courageous. Vs. 31-42

Read & Discuss

1) Read 19:16-24

Jesus is taken to be crucified. Pilate has a sign up on the cross – “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” He does this in his pride to embarrass and mock the Jewish leaders. Jesus is crucified between two criminals. The soldiers gambled for His clothes. It seems like everything is out of control. But everything is not as it seems. Jesus is in control fulfilling Old Testament scripture. One day the proud who thought they could get away with killing Jesus will bow the knee to the King that they mocked.

What do you think when you see proud people get away with evil? How do you feel when wrong is celebrated? Are there areas in your life where pride creeps in? What can you do to combat pride in your life?

Additional Reading: *Psalm 22, Matthew 27:32-45, Mark 15:21-32, Luke 23:26-43, Philippians 2:5-11*

2) Read 19:25-30

As Jesus is dying on the cross, His mother is there. Can you put yourself in Mary's shoes? Take a moment to consider how she must have felt standing there, helpless, watching Him die. Even while He was dying, Jesus takes care of His mother. Jesus is still in charge. When He says, “I thirst,” it is a fulfillment of Scripture. ([Psalm 69:21](#))

Finally, He says, "It is finished." Then, He gave up His spirit. He is in charge, and the work that He came to do is completely done! His death was a triumph over darkness. It is a victory shared with us. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, "there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." ([Romans 8:1](#)) We still have a race to run. We serve the Lord, not to complete a work undone, but out of love for Him and with joy in our heart. ([Ephesians 2:10](#))

Have you experienced the freedom and rest that comes from the confidence in Jesus' finished work on the cross? What does that look like in your life?

Additional Reading: *Matthew 27:46-56, Mark 15:33-41, Luke 23:44-49*

3) Read 19:31-42

John identifies himself as an eyewitness (vs. 35). He emphasized that here so that we might believe. The Roman custom was to break the legs of those crucified so that death would come quicker. The soldiers saw that Jesus was dead so they didn't break His legs. This is to fulfill scripture ([Psalm 34:19-20](#)) and give us hope for the resurrection ([Ezekiel 37](#)). Jesus is our Passover lamb. ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#))

Trusting in Christ changes our future, but it also changes us now. Joseph of Arimathea followed Jesus in secret and Nicodemus came to Jesus by night because of fear – fear of man, fear of losing their position and their reputation. A private disciple is not a disciple. ([John 12:42-43](#)) Christianity is personal, but it isn't private. Both men go public here. No matter how difficult life gets now, it won't compare to the future glory. ([Romans 8:18](#)) The value of knowing Jesus far outweighs anything that it might cost. The world surrounds us with its message and its values. If we adopt that view, we become proud, despairing and fearful. We walk by faith – not by sight.

What do you fear? Does the victory to come change your perspective when life gets hard? How has trusting in Christ changed how you think and act?

Additional Reading: *Matthew 27: 57-61, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56,*

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I understand, believe, desire, or do?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Romans 8:31-39](#) "If God is for Us..."