

It Was Finished; John 19:28-30

1. Completion.
 - a. We all crave completion.
 - i. Our wives give us ‘roundtuits’ so we complete household projects “when we get around to it.”
 - ii. We get a feeling of accomplishment when we finish a project.
 1. I am not a mechanic, but I can follow directions.
 2. I had to replace an auxiliary battery in my van.
 3. YouTube is an invaluable resource for me.
 4. I completed the task, and it fixed the problem.
 5. “The light at the end of the tunnel is just the headlamp of an oncoming train.”
Robert Lowell
 - b. On the other hand, leaving something incomplete is a constant reminder of my failure (to finish the project).
 - i. My son just had a heart ablation to prevent his supraventricular tachycardia.
 - ii. Sherril and I spent multiple hours on the phone with TRICARE to get our insurance to approve the surgery.
 - iii. As I am typing (Toni is in surgery), TRICARE has still not approved the referral for his surgery.
 - iv. I cannot leave this incomplete. I have to finish this “project.”
 - c. Jesus could not leave His mission incomplete.
2. The beginning.
 - a. God’s plan started before the foundations of the world were laid.
 - i. Peter encourages us to walk in obedience to God.
 - ii. 1 Peter 1:17–21: “And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. **He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you** who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”
 - iii. Matthew explains that Jesus’ ministry was part of the plan before creation.
 - iv. Matthew 13:34–35: “All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: **“I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.”**
 - v. As Jesus separates the sheep from the goats, He proclaims the Kingdom had been prepared for us.
 - vi. Matthew 25:32–34: “Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**”
 - vii. God chose us.

- viii. Ephesians 1:3–5: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as **he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ**, according to the purpose of his will,”
 - 1. Predestined means to predetermine.
 - a. I have predetermined that everyone who raises their right hand this morning will get a hug.
 - b. All those who raise their left hand will get a handshake.
 - c. It is your choice which hand you raise.
 - 2. We choose to enter the Kingdom (the church).
 - 3. Acts 2:21: “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
 - 4. God predetermined His kingdom and that all who called upon Him through Jesus would be part of that Kingdom through adoption.
 - b. The Kingdom is waiting for Jesus.
3. At Hand.
 - a. Jesus’ ministry was all about declaring the coming Kingdom.
 - i. John the Immerser was the beginning.
 - ii. Matthew 3:1–3: “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”
 - iii. To draw near in a temporal [*time*] sense, draw near, come near, approach.¹
 - iv. The time for the Kingdom’s appearance is close.
 - v. Jesus declares the Kingdom.
 - vi. Matthew 4:12–17: “Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
 - vii. Jesus tells his apostles to declare the Kingdom.
 - viii. Matthew 10:5–7 “These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ”
 - ix. Jesus declares the Kingdom in the Garden of Gethsemane.
 - x. Matthew 26:45–46 “Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. **See, the hour is at hand**, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”
 - b. Jesus brings the Kingdom close for us.

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 270.

4. It was finished.
 - a. Jesus' death brings the Kingdom to us.
 - i. John 19:28–30: “After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”
 - ii. Matthew gives us a bit more detail about the appearance of the Kingdom.
 - iii. Matthew 27:50–54: “And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”
 - b. Jesus' resurrection brings the Kingdom to us.
 - i. Matthew 28:1–6: “Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.”
 - ii. Luke gives us more details about 50 days after Jesus' resurrection.
 - iii. Acts 2:1–4: “When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
 - iv. Just as Mark told us, the Kingdom arrived with power!
 - v. Mark 9:1: “And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”
 - c. The Kingdom is here, waiting for us to choose.
5. Decisions.
 - a. We have a choice to make.
 - b. Do we Accept Jesus' completed Kingdom, God's plan from before the foundations of the world?
 - c. Do we continue being incomplete without Jesus' sacrifice washing our sins away?
 - i. Salvation is not a “project” to complete.
 - ii. But we are incomplete without Jesus.