

Sixth Word - Tetelestai!

The adulteress thought her life was finished, but Jesus invited her to a new beginning. According to the law of Moses, death by stoning was the written consequence for her sin. Jesus, however, had a different plan for her on this day. She was not finished.

John 19:29-30 captures the culminating moment when the final payment of all sin was paid in full. Jesus had been on the cross for six hours at this point. He had just asked for a drink to quench His 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.”

The sixth word of Christ from the cross - “It is finished.”

These are just three short words in the English language; only one word in the Greek.

Tetelestai: which means “it has been and will forever remain finished and there is nothing that can ever happen to unfinish what Jesus just finished.”

What comes to mind when you hear those words? What about the battle at the dinner table - “Can I be finished?”

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ asked if He could avoid drinking the cup of wrath, but His Father said, “No.”

Christ then said, “*Not my will, but your will be done.*” The only way to rescue humanity is to drink all the contents of the cup of sin, shame, and suffering that comes with the cross. This is why Jesus came from heaven to earth. He came to drink the whole cup.

The disciples thought they could drink the cup of wrath, but Jesus challenged them on their ignorance. Matthew 20:22:

“Jesus answered, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?’ They said to him, ‘We are able.’”

He had a cup before Him that needed to be consumed by Him and only Him.

When Christ consumed the cup, He knew He would become the contents of the cup: He would become sin. 2 Corinthians 5:21:

“For our sake the Father made Christ to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Galatians 3:13 tells us what also was mixed in the cup:

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.’”

Jesus made what has been called the Great Exchange. He became the curse on the tree for His people for all time in exchange for His people having the opportunity to be redeemed by what Jesus finished.

What do you do with the fact that it is finished?

Perhaps you could do what Jesus invites all His people to do: *Remember*. Remember that "It is finished." The sacrifice and tenuous death sip of the cup was drained to the bottom. Jesus drank every drop. And His mission to rescue His people includes rescuing you from sin, death, Satan, and hell, It is finished and will forever remain finished, and there is nothing that can ever happen to unfinish what Jesus finished. Your sin has been consumed by Jesus. Forgiveness is ready for you to experience if you believe that Jesus drank the deep, dark, contents of the cup on your behalf.

The way Jesus asks you and all His people to remember His sacrifice is by cleaning your plates and drinking your cups of remembrance through the Lord's Supper.

As you prepare to eat the bread and drink the cup, may you remember what Jesus said on that day on the cross still has implications on this day and throughout eternity for your life: It is finished!

No stones of condemnation need to be thrown. Only humble adoration and thanksgiving need be given for what Jesus has done to remove your sin and shame and give you a new beginning to go and sin no more because it is finished.