

INTRO

- What is one positive change you'd like to see as a result of this pandemic and why?

READ

John 19:28–30 | Word of Triumph: "It is finished."

REFLECT & RESPOND

When Jesus cried out "It is finished" it was a cry of triumph and accomplishment signifying the successful end to a particular course of action. The questions then for us are: what is finished, how is it finished, and why does it matter?

WHAT IS FINISHED?

Just like in a movie or story, we are to understand and interpret the content of what's happening from the context. We understand Jesus' mission more fully as we understand the greater context the Story of Scripture is telling (through Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration).

Sent by the Father and empowered by the Spirit, Jesus' mission was simply to put right everything that had gone wrong as a result of Sin.

The climax of Jesus' mission is seen at the Cross because the Cross is the culmination of God dealing with our sinful world and beginning a new creation through Jesus.

Qu: When you see the Cross, what comes to mind? Do you see it as the launch of God's new creation?

HOW IS IT FINISHED?

There are many different metaphors and ways we are to understand Jesus work on the Cross (e.g. substitution, sacrifice, ransom, victory). Summed up, Jesus fulfills 2 necessary actions on our behalf:

Atonement for Sin — God's definitive action in doing everything necessary to make amends for

our sin and restore us back into relationship with God.

Deliverance from Sin — God's comprehensive victory over the alien Powers of Sin and Death that we and all creation is subject to.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Jesus said it is finished, but it is not over. Like playing on a winning sports team, the game isn't over yet; we still have opposition and need to engage the game, but never forget the scoreboard!

God has begun his new creation by putting us right first (2 Cor 5:17), and we become part of God's plan to put his world right again. The motive for God's work in our world is ultimately love. **Read 1 John 4:10-11.**

John says, "*since God...we ought to...*". In other words, because of God's actions we are to respond accordingly. For starters, we are to trust in Jesus—who he is and what he's done—and allow that trust to change all aspects of our lives.

Qu: where do you still struggle to trust Jesus in your life?

"In this world you will have trouble. **But take heart!** I have overcome the world." — Jesus

Trust produces Courage in the face of troubles.

Qu: what courageous action might God be asking you to take specifically in this time?

PRAY

- Pray for those courageous actions.
- Use UP-IN-OUT to guide your prayer to pray for one another, as well as our city.

Book Recommendation:

The Day the Revolution Began — NT Wright