

**Big Idea:** The price for your freedom has already been paid.

**Primary Scripture:** Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21

**Supporting Scripture:** Romans 3:23; Psalm 139:13, 16

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**CAPTURE (Why should students pay attention to and care about your message?)**

- Have you ever done something you wish you could take back?
- If we're being honest, almost every single person would say yes.
- What makes those moments so heavy is you can't just *fix* them.
- You can apologize and try to make it right—but you can't *undo* it.
- It's **done**.
- That word "done" usually feels like bad news. Like a door that's closed. A mistake that's permanent.
- The feeling that goes with it is *guilt*. And guilt is this weight you carry around that says, "You messed up. And you can't take it back."
- Some of you are carrying guilt right now.
  - Maybe you hurt someone, and you don't know how to make it right. Maybe you made a choice, and now you're living with the consequences. Maybe you said something you can't unsay.
  - And the worst part is every time you think about it that guilt comes flooding back.
  - It's like a little voice that just keeps reminding you: *You can't fix this. You can't undo it. It's done.*
  - That's the worst version of **done**. The permanent kind. The kind that feels like a closed door. A mistake that can't be erased.
- What if I told you there's a different kind of **done**?
- What if I told you that even though you can't take back that moment, Jesus already took care of it?
- We're in the second week of our series called **Done**, where we're looking at what Jesus has already accomplished.
  - Not what you need to do. What He's already done.
  - Last week, we talked about how you don't have to *earn* God's love because it's a gift.
  - This week we're talking about the **price**.

- Because that gift wasn't free. Someone paid for it. And that someone was Jesus.

### **SCRIPTURE (What does God's Word say?)**

- A few decades after Jesus' death and resurrection, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church in Rome, where he wrote a lot about how Christ's death and resurrection continue to impact us as Christ-followers today.

***<sup>8</sup> But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:8 – NLT)***

- Sinners refers to people who are still stuck in whatever it is that's keeping them far from God.
- Thankfully, God doesn't wait until we have it all together. This passage shows us that God moved toward us way before we ever even thought about moving toward Him.

***<sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (Romans 3:23 – NLT)***

- How could Jesus' death on a cross two thousand years ago free us from our guilt today?

***<sup>21</sup> For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21 – NLT)***

- Jesus was perfect, and because He was perfect, He took what **we owed**... and gave us what **He earned**.
  - Jesus took **our sin**... We get **His righteousness**.
  - Jesus took **our guilt**... We get **His freedom**.
  - Jesus took **our death**... We get **His life**.
- The cross is not just a symbol or a tragic story—it's the moment when Jesus paid the price for every sin we've ever committed and every sin we ever will commit.
- When He rose from the dead three days later—that's proof that His payment was accepted.
- Death didn't win. The price Jesus paid was enough.
- It's **done**.

## **INSIGHTS (What might this Scripture mean?)**

### **1. Jesus knew your name when He chose the cross.**

- It's easy to hear “Jesus died for the world” and think, “Okay, but that's everyone. How do I know He was thinking about **me**? **My** failures? **My** guilt?”

***<sup>13</sup> You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb ... <sup>16</sup> You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. (Psalm 139:13, 16 – NLT)***

- God didn't just know that you'd be born, He knew every day of your life. He knew every choice. He knew every failure. And He knew every moment of guilt you'd ever carry.
- Imagine the night before Jesus was crucified.
  - He was in the Garden of Gethsemane in agony.
  - The Bible says His sweat was like drops of blood. That's how much stress His body was under.
  - In that moment He knew exactly what He was facing. He knew the cross. He knew the pain. He knew that He was about to die.
  - And He knew you.
- He knew the thing you said last week that you wish you could take back. He also knew the thing you'll do next month that you'll regret.
- He knew it all—and His response was to face the cross.
- Before you were born, before you made a single mistake, Jesus looked at your life—saw everything you'd do—and decided you were worth dying for.

### **2. Your freedom can't be taken away.**

- If Jesus had stayed in that grave, death would have won. Sin would have won. The story would have ended there.
- But He didn't stay dead. Three days later, He rose from the grave.
- That shows us that **the price Jesus paid was enough**. Death couldn't hold Him.
- That means it can't hold you either. Your freedom is permanent.
- So why do we still feel guilty sometimes? Why does the weight of our guilt still feel so heavy sometimes?

- The next time that voice shows up, remember: the price has been paid. The resurrection proved it.
- And nothing can take away the freedom that Jesus has given you.

### **ACTION (How could we live this out?)**

#### **1. Write a “Paid in Full” letter to yourself.**

- Sometime this week find a quiet place. Get a piece of paper or open a note on your phone. And write yourself a letter, one that you can come back to whenever guilt starts to show back up.
- At the top... write: "Dear [your name], the price has been paid in full."
- Then list out anywhere from 1-5 specific things you've experienced guilt over.
- Take the time necessary to pray and ask God to help you make things right between you and anyone you may have hurt.
- After you've written down those past actions, words, or thoughts that you've felt guilty for, go back over your list, and after each one... write one word: **PAID**.
- Don't throw that letter away. Keep it. Take a picture of it and keep it on your phone. Or fold it up and put it somewhere safe that you'll be able to find it again.
- There's a good chance that your guilt is going to come back, and when it does—pull out that letter.

#### **2. Offer grace to someone else.**

- This week, ask God if there's someone you need to forgive.
- Forgiveness doesn't mean what they did was okay. It doesn't mean you have to trust them again right away. It doesn't mean you pretend it didn't happen.
- But it does mean you stop carrying the weight of it. And it means that you release them from the debt they owe you—just like Jesus released you from yours.
- Ask God to show you who comes to mind. And ask Him to help you take the first step toward letting it go.

#### **3. Remember Jesus' sacrifice.**

#### ***A Moment of Silent Reflection***

- In a moment, we're going to take some time to be still. No phones. No distractions. Just you and God.
- Close your eyes and think about what we've talked about today. The price has been paid. Your guilt has been covered. It's **done**.
- As you sit in the silence, I want you to do one thing: say thank you. Not out loud, just between you and God. Thank Him for paying the price you couldn't pay. Thank Him for not waiting until you had it all together.
- Let's take the next few minutes in silence, and then I'll close us in prayer before we head to our small groups.