

Dear Steadfast Omaha,

In John 19:17-30, we read John's account of the crucifixion of Jesus. We learned about the brutality of this form of execution. We learned about the significance of the sign Pilate had hung above Jesus on the cross. We learned how the executioners dividing up His garments after crucifying Him fulfilled Scripture (Psalm 22:18). We learned about the four women at the cross and the words Jesus spoke to His mother and John while He hung on the cross. We learned that Jesus' words in verse 28, "I am thirsty" also fulfilled Scripture (Psalm 69:21). We know from the other Gospel accounts that Jesus spoke seven times on the cross. John only records three of those. His last recorded words of Jesus on the cross were, "It is finished." Those three words are one word in Greek, "Tetelestai." The word actually means "It is finished, It always will be finished, to complete, and to bring an activity to a successful finish." Everyone would have been familiar with that word because it was used by **servants** (when their work was completed they would say, "Tetelestai"), **priests** (after finding that a sacrifice was unblemished and acceptable they would say, "Tetelestai"), **artists** (when their painting was finished they would say, "Tetelestai"), and **merchants** (when the debts they were owed were repaid they would present a receipt that said, "Tetelestai"). After Jesus said, "It is finished" He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. No one took His life, He had the authority to lay it down and take it up (John 10:17-18). He obeyed His Father's will, doing what was pleasing to Him, all the way to His death (John 8:29). What was John specifically wanting us to grasp through what he emphasizes in this gospel account of the death of Jesus Christ? Remember, John wrote this Gospel "so that people would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing they would have life in His name." Through his account of the crucifixion of Jesus, John wants His readers to know that the Father's sovereign plan of redemption for mankind has been fulfilled and it's fulfillment is a direct result of the obedience of Jesus to His Father. I encourage you to get online and listen to the message if you were not able to be there on Sunday. As you seek to apply this passage to your life, ask yourself these questions:

- **Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ?** Jesus is the only acceptable sacrifice for sin because He was spotless/perfect. If you

place your faith in anyone or anything else, it is insufficient to save you. Have you accepted the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ? If not, a fate a lot worse than the cross awaits.

- **Does the fulfillment of the sovereign plan of God and the obedience of His Son all the way to death on the cross lead me to worship?**

If this is what He has done for me, am I living a life of worship for Him?

Rejoicing in Him,

Pastor Matt