

WHAT HE SAID ABOUT VICTORY - 6

How To Live Through a Bad Day: Seven Encouraging Words From the Cross

It is finished!
– JOHN 19:30

Principle #6:
Be assured, there is a
purpose and an end.

When Jesus says “It is
finished,” it’s a
statement of faith that
everything will be
fulfilled, even though
the victory isn’t seen yet.

Tetelesthai—It is finished! Some, no doubt, thought it was a word of failure. Others, a word of relief that the pain was almost over. But in reality the words, “It is finished”, were neither the words of a discouraged man nor some despairing martyr. They were the words of a victor, not a victim. If His hand had not been nailed to the cross, His fist would have punched the air. It was a shout of triumph. A declaration that all He had come to do had been completed—even though the victory was not yet apparent.

Jesus’ statement emphasizes the sufficiency of the outcome of His salvation offered through the Cross. It also provides a confidence for the outcome of our own bad days.

WELCOME/WORSHIP

Share a memorable time in which someone of importance interceded on your behalf.

Jesus’ sixth statement from the Cross emphasizes the all-sufficiency of His sacrifice for our sin. As a result of His resurrection, He always lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:22-25)! At the conclusion of your time together, praise Him for laying down His life for you. 337—“Hallelujah! What a Savior,” 922—“Jesus Paid It All.”

WORD

Read John 19:28-30

1. What all did Jesus mean by His cry, “*It is finished*”?
2. Jesus’ statement alludes to, and Scripture confirms, the sufficiency of Christ’s death on the Cross for all our sins. If God is satisfied with the work of Christ, why aren’t we? In what ways do you struggle with fully trusting in the sufficiency of Christ’s death for your sin? Why?
3. What is the difference between a pardon and a parole? Which of the two does God offer? How would keeping this in mind change the way you view yourself? Others?
4. Jesus made a statement of triumph even though He hadn’t quite realized the victory. What are the implications of this for your life?
5. What does it mean that there is a *purpose* and an *end* to anything that might beset you? Restate these principles in your own words. How have (or might) these two convictions sustained you through bad days?

WORKS

Any of life’s bad days are a potential staging ground for the wonder of His redemptive work (Romans 8:28)! Because of the Cross, there is nothing we struggle with that is without either a purpose or an end. In the middle of your struggle, don’t expect to see the full dimension of God’s redemptive plan, but never doubt the certainty that His sovereign power will ultimately win the day.

What can you do this week to allow these truths to soak into your heart and begin to affect you? Who is someone you know that would greatly benefit from knowing these truths about Jesus’ finished work on the Cross?