



John 19:25-30, Lesson #52

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There is Nothing like a Mother's Love!

"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother" (John 19:25).

An army could not keep her away.

"Her love outlasts all other human love,

Her faith endures the longest, hardest test,

Her tried loyalty through a lifetime proves,

That she's a friend, the noblest and the best.

John 19:25-27, "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife of Clopas*, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home."

- It is difficult to comprehend the agony of Mary as she saw her Son crucified. She was witness to the pain, humiliation, shame, suffering, and death of her Son. Of all those who looked upon Jesus at the cross, none suffered as Mary did.
- Identification of the other women at the cross besides Jesus' mother:
His mother's sister, Mary the *wife of Clopas*, and Mary Magdalene:
 - ✓ These faithful women were there with Jesus through His agony on the cross, to honor Him and to support His mother.
 - ✓ **Mary the *wife of Clopas* and Mary Magdalene** were also among those who first discovered the empty tomb, evidence of the resurrection of Jesus.
 - ✓ Matthew and Mark both mention a "Mary the mother of James and Joseph" among the women who were at the cross (Matt 27:56; Mark 15:40).
Mark identifies this James as "James the younger" as if to distinguish him from James the son of Zebedee and Jesus' brother (oldest of the 4 brothers to Jesus).
Note: Brothers to Jesus: James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. At least 2 sisters. (Matthew 12:46-47, 13:55-56, John 2:12 and 7:3-10).

Some of the later Church Fathers identified Clopas with Cleopas, one of the disciples to whom Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus after His Resurrection (Luke 24:18).

- **The disciple whom He loved standing by:** This was the author John's humble way to refer to himself in the story.
- Jesus consciously cared for His mother to the end,
- John and Mary each obeyed this solemn command of Jesus from the cross, though it was a remarkable thing that Jesus commanded.
- Why Jesus did not leave his mother's care to one of his half brothers or sisters, we do not know! Jesus did this to honor the one disciple (we know of) who was courageous enough to stand with Jesus and be present at the crucifixion.
- **Behold your mother!** Jesus knew John was capable and willing to follow through with any directive He gave him.

John 19:28-30, “John After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!” Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So, when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

- **Knowing that all things were now accomplished:** Jesus knew that His great work, His life and death work on the cross was fulfilled. He then made preparation to yield His life and die, having finished the work.

Jesus statement: “I thirst”:

The soldiers filled a sponge with sour wine on hyssop and put it on Jesus' mouth:

Note: “The very mention of hyssop would take the thoughts of any Jew back to the saving blood of the Passover lamb.” (Barclay)

The Old Testament ties in with the New...the Old Covenant ties in with the New Covenant!

- *The blood of Jesus saves us to the uttermost!*
- *There is no one like our God!!*
- *There*

“It is finished!”

- **Jesus' final word (*tetelestai*) in the ancient Greek was the cry of a winner.**
- **Jesus had finished the eternal purpose of the cross.**
- **It stands today as a finished work, the foundation of all Christian peace and faith, paying in full the debt we righteously owed to God and making peace between God and man.**

Note: A single word can change everything.

- “Not guilty” in a court of law changes everything.
- “Fair” on the playing field changes everything.
- When a woman says “Yes” to a marriage proposal it changes everything.
- “Goodbye” can change everything.
- **Yet, there has never been a single-word said that has impacted history than what Jesus said in John 19:30.**

Note: At some point before He died, before the veil was torn in two, before He cried out it is finished, an awesome spiritual transaction took place. God the Father laid upon God the Son all the guilt and wrath our sin deserved, and He bore it in Himself perfectly, totally satisfying the wrath of God for us.

Jesus died with the cry of the Victor on His lips.

(*teleo*, ‘to finish’) = used in 1st and 2nd centuries in the sense of ‘fulfilling’ or ‘paying’ a debt and often appeared on receipts.

Jesus’ statement ‘It is finished’ (*tetelestai, tetelestai*) could be interpreted as ‘Paid in full.’” (Tenney)

It was all finished, paid in full, accomplished.

- **The types, promises, and prophecies were finished.**
- **The sacrifices and ceremonies of the priesthood were finished.**
- **His perfect obedience was finished.**
- **The satisfaction of God’s justice was finished.**
- **The power of Satan, sin, and death was finished.**

Bowing His head...Gave up His spirit:

- “We have an eyewitness, on whom every particular of this solemn moment made an indelible impression.”

- John was not out to jolt society in fearing death...but, to note that Jesus had suffered the sin pain for us. Body, soul, and spirit...Jesus made an impact on civilization.
- No one took Jesus' life from Him; He, in a manner unlike any man, **gave up His spirit.**
- Death had no righteous hold over the sinless Son of God. He stood *in the place* of sinners, but was never a sinner Himself. So, He could not die unless He **gave up His spirit.**
- "No one took His life from Him: His death was a voluntary surrender: a surrender which He had authority to make, because the authority to surrender His life was accompanied with an authority to resume it (John 10:18).” (Trench)

 1 *He paid a debt He did not owe,
I owed a debt I could not pay,
I needed someone to wash my sins away;
And now I sing a brand new song,
“Amazing Grace,”
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay.*

2 *He paid that debt at Calvary,
He cleansed my soul and set me free,
I’m glad that Jesus did all my sins erase;
I now can sing a brand new song,
“Amazing Grace,”
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay.*

3 *One day He’s coming back for me,
To live with Him eternally,
Won’t it be glory to see Him on that day!
I then will sing a brand new song,
“Amazing Grace,”
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay.*

Source: [Sing 'N' Praise Hymnal Vol. 2 #21](#)

Source of some of the teaching material: <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary>