

## FINISHING NAILS

(John 19:28-30)

Intro: His hands and feet nailed to the cross.

-Jesus utters his final words:

#"It is finished."

\*John 19:30.

### I. What Is Finished?

#### A. Jesus Is Finished.

##### 1. He's dead.

a. His life is over.

##### 2. Wednesday evening Pam and I had company.

a. My cousin Arleigh and his wife Janie.

-From Illinois.

-Stopped on their way to Phoenix.

#For the birthday of one of their daughters.

b. As we were leaving the house.

-To come up here to church.

#So that I could show them around.

-Janie commented on how quiet our neighborhood is.

-I said:

#"Our street doesn't really go anywhere."

#"So there's not a lot of traffic."

#"It's pretty quiet."

-Arleigh said:

#"You know where we live."

#"If people don't read the sign,"

#"They have to turn around in our driveway."

\*There is no cul-de-sac there.

#"Because we live at the end of a dead-end street."

##### 3. Jesus had reached a dead end.

a. He had been:

-Arrested.

-Tried.

-Convicted.

-Sentenced.

-Executed.

- b. It was over.
  - He spoke his last words.
    - #“It is finished.”
  - He died.
    - #Jesus had come to a dead end.

B. His Work Was At An End.

1. In an earlier conversation with Nicodemus.

- a. Jesus had said:
  - “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”
    - #John 3:16-17.
- b. Jesus had come into the world.
  - To save the world.
  - To save you.
  - To save me.
- c. At the end of Jesus’ suffering.
  - Jesus said:
    - #“It is finished.”
    - \*But it’s not just finished.

2. It’s perfect.

- a. The word that Jesus utters.
  - To declare it is finished.
    - #tetelstai.
- b. Not only in the perfect tense.
  - In Greek.
- c. Word can also mean:
  - “It is perfect.”
- d. Hebrews 10:11-12, 14.
  - Contrasts:
    - #Sacrifices made by priests.
    - #Sacrifice made by Jesus.
  - “And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, ‘he sat down at the right hand of God’.”
  - “For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”

3. Jesus' sacrifice for sin is perfect.
  - a. It doesn't need to be added to.
  - b. It doesn't need to be done over again.
    - It is finished.
    - It is perfect.
4. Who of us can say the same?
  - a. Mary has had her hands full in the office the last couple of weeks.
    - Last week.
      - #Two 20-page bulletins for Palm Sunday.
      - #Ascent.
    - This week.
      - #Maundy Thursday.
      - #Good Friday.
      - #Two more for Easter.
  - b. She's been:
    - Drafting.
    - Typing.
    - Copying.
  - c. I've been:
    - Outlining.
    - Proofreading.
    - Editing.
    - Changing.
      - #Her job is to catch my mistakes.
      - #My job is to catch her mistakes.
  - d. When Mary put the last draft of the last bulletin on my desk this morning.
    - It was perfect.
      - #I couldn't find anything to change.
        - \*Now maybe I was just so:
          - +Tired.
          - +Overwhelmed with stuff.
            - =That I didn't do a very good job of proofreading.
        - \*To me it looked perfect.
      - Mary said to me:
        - #"That's the last one."
  - e. It was finished.
    - But only for this week.
      - #Mary has a well-deserved three-day weekend coming.
    - But she's not finished.
      - #Because God's not finished with you.
      - #You're not finished with me.
      - #I'm not finished with her.

5. But Jesus was finished.
  - a. And he said so.
  - b. And he bowed his head.
    - Normally one would die.
    - #And then the head would bow.
    - But Jesus is in control to the end.
    - #Earlier in the Gospel of John.
    - \*Jesus had said:
      - + "I lay down my life in order to take it up again.
      - "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.
      - "I have power to lay it down,
      - "And I have power to take it up again."
      - =John 10: 17-18.
    - #Jesus has finished laying down his life.
    - \*He bows his head.
      - +As if nodding in approval.
      - =For a job well done.
      - =For a job perfectly done.
      - =For a job that is finished.

## II. Jesus Was Finished With The Nails In His Hands And In His Feet.

- A. I'm Not The Greatest Carpenter.
  1. I have learned:
    - a. To frame a wall.
    - b. To hang drywall.
    - c. To measure twice and cut once.
  2. This winter.
    - a. I put up 6 or 7 shelves in a closet.
      - For Pam.
    - b. They fit.
    - c. They're level.
  3. I know the difference between a common nail and a finishing nail.
    - a. Common nails.
      - Ones with the big heads.
      - You use them in places where no one will see.
      - #Behind walls.
      - #In attics.
    - b. Finishing nails.
      - Ones with the small heads.
      - You use them in places where people will see.

B. Jesus Was Nailed To The Cross.

1. I don't know how big the heads were on those nails.
2. But I like to think of them as finishing nails.
  - a. Finishing off Jesus.
  - b. Finishing up God's work of redemption.
    - It is finished.
    - For all the world to see.
3. When you come up to the cross later.
  - a. With those black pieces of paper.
    - Symbolizing your sins.
  - b. You are invited to put them on the nails.
    - Silver nails.
      - #With the little heads.
    - Finishing nails.

Concl: Last night I suggested.

- The hour of Jesus' glorification in John's Gospel.
  - #Was more than 60 minutes.
    - \*But more like three days.
  - #Was more than a series of events.
    - \*Mandy Thursday.
    - \*Good Friday.
    - \*Easter.
  - #But rather one all-encompassing event.
    - \*Celebrating the Passover with his disciples.
      - +Foot washing.
      - +Lord's Supper.
    - \*Crucifixion.
      - +Death.
    - \*Resurrection.
      - +All connected.
      - +All of a piece.
  - Our liturgies.
    - #For last night.
    - #For tonight.
      - \*Have no benediction.
        - +In effect we are saying:
          - =To be continued.

With that in mind, I leave you with two thoughts:

- It is finished.
- To be continued.

