Agape House of Worship
Wednesday Bible Study – September 16th, 2026

Study Series: THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE: A Journey Through the Gospel of John
Part 32: It Is Finished | John 19:17-42 **Teacher: Minister Oludare Joshua Dada**
Cross, Fulfillment, Burial

Introduction and Context

The agony in the garden of Gethsemane has been realized, the unjust trial of Jesus was carried out, and it is now time for Jesus to face His passion. The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ was running concurrently with the celebration of the Passover. The Passover was an annual celebration of the Jews as they remembered and commemorated their exodus from the Egyptians. This involved God passing over the Israelites by way of the blood of an unblemished male lamb on their doorpost and exacting judgment on the Egyptians. Jesus has now presented Himself before the priests and scribes as the unblemished lamb of God to take on the wrath of God for the sake of all humanity in order that we may experience an eternal exodus from the grip of sin and death. At the heart of the Passover was a reminder of what God has done and a celebration of His sovereign arm in delivering the Israelites. For ancient Israel, the Passover was a yearly reminder, but for us in AD, the cross should be a daily reminder of what He did, why He did it, and who He did it for, so we can orient our lives to live in view of His finished work.

The Cross (v17-27)

Question: What symbolism was behind the title placed on the cross of Christ? (Use the Bible)

The Location of the Cross:

- Immediately following His "trial," Jesus was ordered to bear His cross to a place called ***Golgotha.*** It is of Aramaic origin, which means "Skull." Speculation about the name ranges from theories that Adam's skull lies beneath the cross to others claiming the terrain resembles a skull. Others have also said it is due to the number of skulls disposed of there due to the deaths that have taken place there. However, Golgotha's ambiguous nature emphasizes the grandiosity of Jesus' sacrifice. Kings were given the death of a king with all its prestige. Instead, they took Jesus to the place where criminals die. A place of no worthwhile significance or historical importance.
- Prior to Golgotha, Jesus had to be condemned and handed over to the Jews at ***Gabbatha.*** Gabbatha was an elevated/raised place where judgment was exercised and, in this case, humans were exercising judgment on the Divine God. Its proximity to the cross is important to understand for two main reasons:
    - The depths of Jesus' sacrifice: Jesus, though He was God, submitted Himself and came under worldly authority to be crucified to do the Father's will. He took on the accusations of fallen creation without refuting the charges. (John 19:11)
    - Denying Jesus: Whenever we are denying the Lordship of Jesus, we are doing what Pilate and the Jews did. We assume a high place in our lives; from that place, we reject His claim as King, deny His Lordship, and we turn away from Him.
- Golgotha was a place for criminals, but Jesus has made it a place where we remember what He did for us. Golgotha became the place where He won the victory for us, and He is rightly named King on His cross.

The Name of the Cross:

- Above the cross of Christ, John says it reads, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." The Romans used this title to make clear why He was crucified. Hence why the Jews wanted the title to say, "He said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'" Also, the claim to be King was treasonous because it is hostile toward the pagan world in Rome that ascribes kingship to Caesar
- What does Jesus have to say about the claim that He is King?

- ***36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." – John 18:36-37.***

- With the title affixed to the cross, the Roman government obligation is complete, and Jesus is soon to be nailed to the cross.

The Punishment of the Cross:

- The crucifixion is the most brutal death a human can experience due to the torture and excruciating nature of the cross that leads to one's death. The cross was the Romans' way of killing those despised in society while inflicting the maximum amount of pain possible. It was an inhumane way to die.
- Could Jesus not have come and died without suffering? Certainly not! Beyond the prophetic nature of Christ's suffering, He was not simply enduring the suffering of the Roman government, but God's. The Romans were the instrument of punishment, but looking past them into the divine realm, God was inflicting His wrath upon His Son, which no other person could bear, so that all humans may have a way back to Him.

The Final Word (v28-30)

Question: What did Jesus mean by Him saying, "It is finished?" (Use the Bible)

The scope of Christ's finished work involves three dimensions: God's wrath, the sacrifice, and the sinner. For God's wrath to be eternally appeased, it required a sacrifice; the result of that sacrifice is that we, the sinner, are reconciled to the Father and made clean.

- Propitiation: The act of appeasing and satisfying
  - God's holiness demands recompense for sin before we can be reconciled to Him. Because of our fallen nature (Romans 3:23), we cannot satisfy Him, so God sent His Son to satisfy His wrath. (Romans 3:24-25, 1 John 2:2).
- Atonement: A substitutionary act
  - A penalty was incurred, and a sacrifice was required to cover the guilt. Christ dying for us was a vicarious substitution that gave us life by Him covering our sin (Genesis 3:21, 1 Peter 2:24)
- Expiation: Removing the guilt and washing away the sin.
  - As a result of the substitution, our guilt is taken away, and we are cleansed of our sins. Expiation flows directly out of atonement. The power of sin is taken away, and we are clean (Hebrews 9:14, Romans 6:4-6).

Death and Burial (v31-42)

Question: What is the significance of the water and blood that flowed from His pierced side? (Use the Bible).

Instead of breaking the legs of Jesus, which was the custom of the Romans to increase the torture and agony of suffocation, they instead pierced the side of Jesus, resulting in blood and water gushing out. This spiritual significance emphasizes how the sinner is made clean.

- Testimony of water and blood:
  - Eve was made from the rib in Adam's side, from which we derive our fallen state. Through the pierced side of Jesus, we are now of Christ not by flesh, but by the water and blood that wash and cleanse us, giving us a new nature and life in Christ.
- The Garden Tomb:
  - From a biblical perspective, our history began in a garden (Eden) from which all humans were excommunicated, and the garden tomb proclaims that Christ finished His Father's work.