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## Six Hours, 2

Matthew 27:45–54; Mark 15:33–39;

Luke 23:44–47; John 19:28–30

*“Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit” (John 19:30).*

### THE FINAL THREE HOURS

Jesus’ final three hours on the cross were clothed in a creepy, unnatural darkness. Quietness ruled. The only sounds anyone could hear were the groans of three dying men and the dropping of blood.

In the final three hours, Jesus made four more statements in quick succession. He cried, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” Interpreted, this means, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34). God allowed Jesus to become sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). Because of this, God and Jesus were separated. How terrifying! Oh, the depth of sin!

Separation from God was a deeper wound upon the Son of God than any punishment man could inflict. This statement shouts about man’s lostness and his helplessness. Jesus’ death not only conquered sin, but it also conquered death (Hebrews 2:14–18). Christians need not

fear death. Satan is a defeated enemy; sin is a conquered curse. Death has lost its sting (1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 51–58).

Jesus, knowing that God's will was being done, allowed Himself to say, "I thirst." The humanity of Christ is seen in this, His fifth statement. Humanity's deepest cry is "I thirst" (John 19:28, 29; KJV). Cheap wine was handy. Even when something decent was done for Jesus, it was cheap. The "Water of Life" was thirsty! (John 6:51–58). Jesus did not use His deity to cancel out His humanity.

Crucifixion took away all the rights of one's humanity. Isaiah wrote, "But everyone who saw him was even more horrified because he suffered until he no longer looked human" (Isaiah 52:14; CEV). The Jews had looked for the Messiah, but they rejected and crucified Him when He came. What was their hope became their death. Nothing is more empty than a religion without a Messiah.

God does not change. Jesus, the Son of God, depicted what God is like from the cross. After being on the cross for six hours, He made the statement only He could make: "It is finished!" (John 19:30). "The task is done!" Now, God can be just while justifying sinners. Jesus was saying that He had completed everything that the Father had sent Him to do for our salvation. Heaven has to be eternal; it will take us all eternity to begin to comprehend what God did for us. Being with God, we will further understand His glory. Jesus will be there as "The Lamb" (as depicted in the entire Book of Revelation). All eternity will declare what Jesus meant by saying, "It is finished!"

What man could not finish, Jesus did. The mouth of Satan (the accuser) was shut (Revelation 12:9–11). The old law of Moses was nailed to the cross. The new law of

Christ came into effect (Hebrews 8:6–13; 9:12–18; 10:4–14, 18–31). The greatest words ever said were “It is finished!”

Jesus made His last statement on the cross in a loud voice: “‘Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last” (Luke 23:46). Amazing! His crying out took great effort. He wanted all to hear His final words. Notice that He did not commit to God His body or His breath. He committed His spirit. Jesus, God’s Son, had chosen to die!

Jesus gave His all for our salvation! His followers should live sacrificial lives too. The church is the only institution on earth that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not members of it.

### THE GLORY OF THE CROSS

Jesus never talked as much about being crucified as He did about being glorified. He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You”; “Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was” (John 17:1, 5). Our God turned the most inhumane instrument of execution into the greatest motivation!

Do not talk about the God “within us” or “beside us” until you grasp the God “above us.” God has two thrones—one in the highest heaven and the other in the lowest heart. We do not understand Christ until we understand the cross. The only person worthy of glory gave it all to His Father. Let us not glory in anything but the cross of Christ (Galatians 6:14).

*The cross . . .  
there is no other way!*