AKRONGRACE

It Is Finished

John 19:17–42



Five-Day Devotional

November 9–13, 2026

Scripture | John 19:17–42

17 Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull (in Hebrew,
Golgotha). 18 There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on
either side, with Jesus between them. 19 And Pilate posted a sign on the cross that read,
“Jesus of Nazareth,* the King of the Jews.” 20 The place where Jesus was crucified was near
the city, and the sign was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, so that many people could read
it.

21 Then the leading priests objected and said to Pilate, “Change it from ‘The King of the Jews’
to ‘He said, I am King of the Jews.’ ”

22 Pilate replied, “No, what I have written, I have written.”

23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them.
They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. 24 So
they said, “Rather than tearing it apart, let’s throw dice* for it.” This fulfilled the Scripture that
says, “They divided my garments among themselves and threw dice for my clothing.”* So that
is what they did.

25 Standing near the cross were Jesus’ mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary (the wife of
Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the
disciple he loved, he said to her, “Dear woman, here is your son.” 27 And he said to this
disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

28 Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, “I am thirsty.”*
29 A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch,
and held it up to his lips. 30 When Jesus had tasted it, he said, “It is finished!” Then he bowed
his head and gave up his spirit.

31 It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn’t want the bodies hanging there
the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was Passover
week). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then
their bodies could be taken down. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men
crucified with Jesus. 33 But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so
they didn’t break his legs. 34 One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and
immediately blood and water flowed out. 35 (This report is from an eyewitness giving an
accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also may continue to believe.*) 36 These
things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, “Not one of his bones will be broken,”*
37 and “They will look on the one they pierced.”*

38 Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared
the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus’ body. When Pilate gave
permission, Joseph came and took the body away. 39 With him came Nicodemus, the man who
had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds* of perfumed ointment
made from myrrh and aloes. 40 Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus’ body with
the spices in long sheets of linen cloth. 41 The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where
there was a new tomb, never used before. 42 And so, because it was the day of preparation for
the Jewish Passover* and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Day 1 | Promises Under Pressure

Theme

God carries through His saving purpose even when the scene looks hopeless.

Scripture

John 19:17–24

Devotional

Have you ever waited for someone to keep a promise while everything around you suggested they had forgotten? Waiting can turn into suspicion. We begin interpreting a person's faithfulness through what we can see at that moment.

At the cross, what people can see is a condemned man, a mocking title, and soldiers taking His clothes. Yet John asks us to look more carefully. The sign names Jesus as King, and the soldiers' actions fulfill words from Psalm 22. Human cruelty is real, but it has not pushed God's purpose aside. Jesus is carrying through the mission His Father gave Him.

This helps us place our trust where it belongs. The cross does not promise that every painful situation will resolve as we wish. It shows us how far God goes to keep His redemptive promises. When we struggle to understand what He is doing, we can return to what He has already shown us in Jesus.

Going Deeper

John points to Scripture because these events belong to God's saving purpose. That does not excuse the people who act cruelly. It means their actions cannot defeat His love or prevent the Son from giving Himself. In Sunday's message, Pastor Rob described the hope those connections offer:

Quote from Sunday's Message

John is helping us see that God is carrying through what He promised, even while people are doing terrible things to His Son.

Reflect

1. When circumstances are painful, what do you find yourself assuming about God?
2. How could remembering the cross help you bring an unanswered concern honestly to Him today?

Today's Practice

Read Psalm 22:18 alongside John 19:23–24. Mark the matching details, and write a sentence about what this connection shows you about God's faithfulness.

Closing Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank You for keeping Your saving promises through Jesus. When I cannot understand my circumstances, help me remember the love You have already shown at the cross. Teach me to trust You without pretending that waiting is easy. Amen.

Day 2 | Love That Makes Room

Theme

Jesus' care for His mother reveals the personal love of the Savior who gives Himself.

Scripture

John 19:25–27

Devotional

When your own responsibilities feel overwhelming, how much room is left to notice someone else's need? A full schedule can narrow our attention. Even people we love may begin to feel like another demand.

John lets us see something tender in the middle of Jesus' suffering. Jesus notices His mother and makes provision for her care. We do not need to guess every detail about her circumstances to recognize His concern. The Savior who gives His life for sinners also sees the person standing near Him.

Let that help you consider His love personally. You can come to Him with your own need. His care for His mother gives us a glimpse of the love He continues to show even in suffering. We receive that love before we learn to reflect it. As His mercy steadies us, we can begin paying attention to the people our hurried lives have pushed to the edges.

Going Deeper

Jesus' provision is practical: the beloved disciple receives His mother into his home. Love becomes care someone can actually receive. Our acts of care cannot add to Jesus' saving sacrifice, but they can grow from gratitude for it. Pastor Rob paused over Jesus' concern for His mother in Sunday's message:

Quote from Sunday's Message

Even in His own suffering, Jesus makes room for her need. His love reaches into the life of the person standing in front of Him.

Reflect

1. Who is easy for you to overlook when your own life feels full?
2. What kind of help could that person actually receive from you today?

Today's Practice

Give someone your undivided attention and ask, "What would be helpful for you today?" Offer the help you can reasonably provide.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for a love that notices people in their need. Help me receive Your care instead of treating myself as an interruption. Give me patient attention and willing hands for the person near me today. Amen.

Day 3 | The Cost He Willingly Bore

Theme

Jesus truly suffered and willingly bore the judgment our sins deserve.

Scripture

John 19:28–29; Isaiah 53:5–6

Devotional

What happens when you have to admit that the wrong you did was more serious than you first allowed yourself to believe? We can spend a long time explaining why it happened. Sometimes our explanations protect us from facing the harm.

Jesus' words about thirst bring us close to the reality of His suffering. The Son of God truly became human. His body could hurt, and His willingness to give His life did not remove the pain. We do not need graphic detail to take that suffering seriously.

Isaiah helps us see why He bears it. The rebellion belongs to us, yet the Lord lays our sins on the sufferer. Jesus remains righteous as He willingly bears the judgment we deserve. The Father provides this rescue in love, and the Son freely gives Himself. Seeing that cost helps us stop minimizing sin while also giving us courage to seek mercy. The Savior already knows what we would rather keep hidden.

Going Deeper

Sin is more than an embarrassing failure to meet our own standards. We have turned from the God who gave us life and harmed people He loves. The cross shows both the seriousness of that wrong and God's costly love for sinners. In Sunday's message, Pastor Rob connected Jesus' thirst with His real humanity:

Quote from Sunday's Message

Jesus' willingness to go to the cross never made Him immune to the pain.

Reflect

1. What makes it difficult for you to acknowledge sin without explaining it away?
2. What would honest confession sound like if you trusted the Savior who willingly gave Himself for you?

Today's Practice

Take five quiet minutes to name before God something you know displeases Him. Leave the excuses unspoken, ask for His forgiveness through Jesus, and thank Him for providing the Savior you need.

Closing Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, help me face my sin honestly. Thank You for Jesus, who truly suffered and willingly bore the judgment I deserve. Lead me into repentance with confidence in Your mercy rather than fear of being turned away. Amen.

Day 4 | Enough to Come to God

Theme

Jesus' completed sacrifice gives us a sure basis for asking God's forgiveness.

Scripture

John 19:30; 1 John 2:1–2

Devotional

Have you ever put off prayer because you thought you needed a better week behind you first? Perhaps you planned to come back after your habits improved or your shame faded. Without realizing it, you began treating a good record as the price of admission.

Listen again to Jesus announce that His work is finished. The sacrifice for sin has been offered. John's letter helps us understand why this gives guilty people hope: Jesus is our righteous Advocate, and He Himself is the atoning sacrifice. Through His death, He deals with the guilt that stands between us and God.

We can therefore come honestly, asking forgiveness because of what Jesus has done. Faith receives His mercy; repentance turns us toward Him and away from sin. We may still need help to change, and consequences may remain. Those realities do not mean His sacrifice needs a supplement. His grace is the ground on which we learn to live differently.

Going Deeper

Our confidence rests in Jesus rather than the intensity of our regret. Feeling ashamed cannot pay for sin, and feeling relieved does not make us forgiven. We trust the Savior who gives Himself and welcomes repentant faith. In Sunday's message, Pastor Rob explained Jesus' announcement this way:

Quote from Sunday's Message

He has carried through the work His Father gave Him. The sacrifice for sin has been offered. Jesus bore our sins so we can receive God's mercy.

Reflect

1. What do you tend to treat as evidence that you are finally ready to approach God?
2. When that thought returns, how will you turn your attention to Jesus' sufficient sacrifice?

Today's Practice

Write "Jesus bore our sins so we can receive God's mercy" on a small card. Put it where you usually pray, as a reminder of why you can come honestly to God.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for offering the sacrifice I could never provide. Help me stop waiting to become worthy and come to You in repentance and faith. By Your Spirit, teach me to receive mercy and depend on Your grace as I change. Amen.

Day 5 | Mercy We Can Rely On

Theme

The witnessed death and burial of Jesus anchor our trust in what He actually did.

Scripture

John 19:31–42

Devotional

When your feelings change from one day to the next, what helps you know what you can rely on? We can feel confident in the morning and ashamed by evening. If our relationship with God depended on keeping the right feeling, we would never have much peace.

John carefully tells us that Jesus truly died. He points to an eyewitness whose testimony is given so we may believe, and he describes the body being prepared and laid in a tomb. Our hope rests on something that happened. The Savior really gave His life.

Joseph and Nicodemus respond with costly care for His body. Their actions invite us to consider our own response to Jesus. Receiving mercy can give us courage to stop hiding, acknowledge what needs to change, and begin putting right the harm we have caused. These responses grow from grace. They do not become another sacrifice we must offer to make Jesus' work enough.

Going Deeper

Jesus' burial confirms the reality of His death; it does not by itself explain atonement. We understand His sacrifice through His completed mission and the wider witness of Scripture. His resurrection is essential to our salvation, and next Sunday we will explore it. Today, Pastor Rob's words help us rest in the sufficiency of Jesus' sacrifice:

Quote from Sunday's Message

His death was real, and His sacrifice was complete. When we hear "It is finished!", we can trust that we have no further sacrifice to provide before we come to God.

Reflect

1. When shame returns, what do you usually rely on to decide whether God will receive you?
2. How might trusting Christ's mercy give you courage for an honest apology or a needed change?

Today's Practice

If you owe someone an apology, prepare it without excuses or demands for their forgiveness. Offer it privately when appropriate; if you need help approaching the situation wisely, seek counsel first.

Closing Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank You that my hope rests on Jesus' real and sufficient sacrifice. Give me courage to receive Your mercy and respond truthfully to the harm I have caused. Help me depend on Your grace when my feelings are unsettled. Amen.