

2009

Campbell Chapel Free  
Will Baptist Church

Bob Bradley

# TETELESTAI

*It is finished.*

**CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON**

**"It is Finished"***May 24, 2009*

Bob Bradley

**John 19:18-30**

- 18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.*
- 19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.*
- 20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin.*
- 21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The king of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.*
- 22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.*
- 23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.*
- 24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the Scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.*
- 25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.*
- 26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!*
- 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.*
- 28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.*
- 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.*
- 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

I know this is a familiar story. However, I don't think we hear it enough. We don't hear it enough about what Jesus done for you and me. We want to hear about going to heaven. We want to hear about how much God loves and that's all fine. He does. We want God to bless us and that's wonderful. He does that. But I think sometimes we forget about the liberty that we have today; what it cost for the liberty that we have today.

## THE COST OF LIBERTY

We have liberty today in America. We have liberty today in this world. Many of our men and women have given their lives for that.

The liberty that we have in Jesus Christ tonight, cost something; it wasn't cheap, my friend. It may be free to you and me, but I want you to understand that it was not free. It cost a tremendous price and that price was the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you read the accounts here of the crucifixion; do you know what you will find out? You will find out that the city of Jerusalem; there were no doubt a million or maybe two million in the city of Jerusalem. There were people everywhere. It was Passover season and they came here to worship. This is going to be a different Passover season than they had ever experienced before. The real Passover—He was going to die on Passover. This is what is going to happen.

I thought about the chief priest, scribes and elders. Do you know what they did? They had condemned Him to die. We know that they came and got Him. He had left the Upper Room after He had washed the disciples feet and after they had the Last Supper; we know that He left the Upper Room where He was at and was going down to the Cedron Valley. We know that's where they came and got Him at.

## JESUS PRAYED

He was down there and He had been praying. We know as He was praying the Bible says that His sweat became as great drops of blood. He prayed and He prayed. He said, "Father let this cup pass from me but nevertheless not my will but thy will be done."

### Matthew 26:39

*And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*

Do you know what Jesus knew? He knew what was coming. He knew what the cross was going to bring. Even though the suffering and all the things that were going to take place there—do you know what He did? He went right on anyway.

## JESUS' ARREST

I thought about them coming to get Him. Judas has already left the crowd now. He has already left the twelve. He has already gone to the chief priest, scribes and elders. He has already gone there and made his deal, his bargain for the thirty pieces of silver. Do you know what the Bible tells us? Jesus is praying down here in the garden. We know that Judas comes with a whole bunch of men. They come with swords and they come with staves. They come with torches. They are coming in the night. I don't know what time it was, but I know it was up in the night sometime because they were carrying their torches. They are coming to arrest the Son of Almighty God. They were coming to arrest Him; someone who had never done anything wrong, someone who loved men, who loved women, and who loved mankind. He

went about doing good the Bible says. They were coming to arrest Him and that is exactly what they did. They came down to where He was at.

### **POWER IN HIS WORD**

Do you know what the Bible says and tells you and me? We know that they come down there and Jesus asked them, "Who are you looking for?" They said "We are looking for Jesus of Nazareth." The Bible says that Jesus said, "I am He." Do you know what the Bible says happens? They fell backwards upon the ground. There is power in His Word. When Jesus Christ spoke there was power in His Word.

She sang a song about Lazarus. Do you know what he did one day? He just spoke His Word and Lazarus got up from the dead. He spoke the Word one day and Bartimaeus, a fellow who was blind was healed. He spoke the Word. One day when they were traveling across the sea, a storm came and it looked like they were going to drown. However, Jesus spoke the Word. Do you know what happened? The storm ceased. Do you know why? It is because there is power in His Word. There is power there.

His Words are not like man's words. His Word is not like that at all, but they have tremendous power.

They came and got Him. They arrested Him here. We don't have time to go through the whole thing that was here. However, we know that there was a bit of a tussle here. We know that Peter pulled out a sword and cut off Malchus' ear. We know that Jesus just picked up the ear off of the ground and He just healed this guy's ear.

Do you know what friend? It takes power to be able to do that. It takes power to be able to do things like that.

Do you know what they did? They came and arrested Him. This was up in the night; probably 12:00 or 1:00 in the morning. We know they shifted Him around inside Jerusalem. We know that He went from Anna's house to Caiaphas' house. They switched Him backwards and forwards. They were having their mock trial. They were trying to find some reason that they might condemn Him to die.

### **HE WILLINGLY GAVE HIS LIFE**

Friend listen. He was going to lay down willingly. They didn't need to drum up any charges. They didn't need to lie about Him. He was going to willingly lay down His life for me and for you. Do you know what I say? I say glory to His name that He loved me enough that He died on that day so that I could have liberty tonight, so that I might have life and have it more abundantly.

### **MOCK TRIAL**

The Bible says here that they brought Him to Pilate about daylight in the morning. They brought Him there and we all know the story. Pilate questioned Him. He could not find any fault in Him. However, after a while because of the pressure of the people, Pilate finally gave in. He said, "There He is. I don't find any fault in Him. You take Him and you crucify Him." That is exactly what they did. Somewhere around nine o'clock in the morning, they brought Him out here and they nailed Him on a cross. Can you

imagine the crowd that was there? When they left where they did inside the city, they brought Him outside the city unto a place called "Calvary." The Bible calls it the place of the skull. As He is traveling, do you know what He was doing? For a long time, He was carrying His own cross. He was bearing the cross. We know that He fell under the weight of it after a while and we know that they got Simon a Cyrenian to carry His cross the rest of the way there.

Do you know what friend? When He got there He willingly allowed Himself to be nailed to a tree. They did not have to persuade Him. They did not have to try to use force. There is no doubt that He laid down His hands and He put out His feet and they nailed Him to a tree. Do you know why? He loves you and He loved me. He's there because of my sin and because of your sin; not because of Him and his sin.

### **THE PAIN OF FREEDOM FROM SIN**

People everywhere were coming and going. When you read about Calvary, the place of the skull, it was a place where a lot of people passed by. It was a place where a lot of folks passed by. Here Jesus Christ is. He is beat. He's bruised. His beard has been pulled out. His hair has been pulled out of His head. He's been scourged. No doubt, His upper body looked like raw meat. Here He is laying there with His hands outstretched and they were putting big spikes in His hand. They would be taking the hammer and hitting these spikes.

I don't know if you have ever driven a nail in your hand before, but I have done that and it is painful. I could not imagine laying there without screaming, hollering and fighting, but He did not do that. The Bible says that He was like a lamb dumb before his shearers. Do you know what He did not do? He did not open His mouth. Do you know what He could have done? He could have called for twelve legions of angels. They would have come and rescued Him. However, He did not do that. That was not the Father's will. It was His Father's will that He was going to die for me and for you. There He is. He is laying there on a cross. He is not very far off the ground. I think sometimes that we get the wrong impression that He is sticking way up in the air. I don't think that He was.

Do you know what the Bible says here? The Bible says after some time there was three hours of darkness. We know that from sixth hour unto the ninth there was darkness over that whole land. Do you know what Jesus prayed? He prayed "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Could you imagine Him hanging there on the cross in the darkness, in the blackness; all alone? There was no one to help Him. There was no one to rescue Him.

I hope you get the picture. He is hanging there for me and for you. It was my sins that nailed Him there. It was your sins that held Him there because He loved you and He loved me. That hasn't changed any. He still yet loves you.

### **JESUS' MOTHER**

We know that He loved His mother. We know that Jesus' mother was there. We know that John was there also at the cross. We know that John and Jesus had a great relationship. He looked at His mother

and said, "This is your son now. I'm going to die. He's the one that is going to be taking care of you. I'm about ready to die. I'm going to leave here."

Could you imagine your child hanging there on a cross? Could you imagine how Mary must have felt? [Could you imagine how Mary must have felt] seeing her Son hanging there bleeding and knowing that He was going to die just shortly. Jesus said, "He's going to take care of you now." He says, "John, this is your mother you are going to take care of her." Do you know what the Bible says? He took her to His own home and he took care of her.

## TETELESTAI

### John 19:30

*When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

The Bible says that Jesus says, "I thirst." When you read about the crucifixion, do you know what you will find? You will find that one of the tremendous things about suffering here that goes along with crucifixion was the horrendous thirst that went along with that. We know that there was some vinegar here. They dipped in a sponge and put it on the end of a reed, or weed and they reached up and touched His lips. But the Bible says when He had received it, He said, "It is finished." That has some awesome impact. Had those words not been spoken, we would not be where we would be at tonight. Had not Jesus said, "It is finished." We would not be here tonight. Do you know what the Greek word is? The Greek word is 'Tetelestai'. Do you know what that means? It means something is complete.

When you read that, in the manuscripts and some of the different things, it will tell you it is like when poet is writing a poem and when he gets done he would say, 'Tetelestai'. If a painter was painting a picture, when he gets everything painted, he would use the word 'Tetelestai' meaning that is all finished. It is all done. Do you know what it also means? It meant when you went down to the store or to the market place and paid your bill; the store keeper would say 'Tetelestai' meaning "it is done." It's been paid.

Do you know what Jesus Christ is saying here? When He is dying, when He is giving up the ghost He says "It is finished."

Do you know what I am glad of today? He would say that the sacrifice that had to be given so that you and I could have life—He is saying, "It is finished."

Today you and I are alive today because Jesus Christ said "It is finished." Not only that but also we are alive today because they took Him off the cross. They put Him in a tomb. He was there for three days. On Sunday morning, He arose from the dead. We are alive today because He is alive. That ought to make us happy. He uses the words 'Tetelestai' it is finished.

Jesus Christ will never come again to planet earth to die on a cross. He is coming back to planet earth, but not to die on a cross. He will never come again and allow wicked men to pluck beard out of His face,

to spit in His face, to scourge Him, to nail Him to a tree and hang Him between heaven and earth; Jesus Christ—that's never going to happen again. He uses the words "it is finished." The sacrifice, the ransom, the payment that was due for my sin and my guilt. Jesus paid it all. He gave it all. He fulfilled it all. He finished it all when He said "It is finished." The Bible says that "He bowed His head and He gave up the ghost."

Friend, He died. He died. He just didn't faint. He just didn't go into some sort of a coma. But Jesus Christ died. "It is finished."

He's not dead tonight. He was in the grave for three days. We understand that. However, He's not dead tonight. The plan is finished. It is done.

### **BELIEVE**

Do you know what you need to do? I read something the other day; someone asked the question, "What can I do to be saved?" Do you know what you can do? You can do absolutely nothing because it has already been done. The price has been paid. The picture has been painted. It is complete. There is nothing you can add to the plan of salvation. You can't do anything to be saved because it has already been done. Do you know what you have to do? The thing you have to do is just simply believe that the picture has been painted. The work has been done. It's been completed. Jesus died for your sins. It's done. It's finished. There is nothing that can be added to that. It's done. He satisfied the demands of a Holy God. When He bowed His head, He gave up the ghost. That appeased the wrath of Almighty God. When He died, He died there in my place and your place. "It is finished."

### **COME AND BE SAVED**

Ask yourself this question. Am I going to believe that? Do I believe that He died for me? Do I believe that He loved me enough that He died for me? You need to because He did that.

Some of us tonight need to make things right with God. I know that some wants to. I know that God has been speaking to hearts. I know that God has been troubling your heart. I understand that. You may be in our auditorium tonight. You may be listening to me across America tonight. I don't know where you are listening to me at.

Friend, listen. It is time and high time that you make a decision to follow Jesus Christ. The work has been done. It's done. There is nothing you can add to it. Just simply believe that Jesus Christ died for you. He finished it, my friend, it's done. Nothing else needs to be done for you to be forgiven tonight. The only thing you need to do is find you a place to pray asking God to forgive you of your sin and come and accept Him. Will you do that this evening? Let's make a move towards God.

**Come—**