



IT IS FINISHED

The Last Words of Christ

Devotional Prayer Journal

King James Version



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Jeff Cloeter

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*[Jesus said,] "It is finished."
John 19:30*



The vision of CTA is
to see Christians highly effective
in their ministry so that Christ's Kingdom
is strengthened and expanded.

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Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

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o much of life is undone. We think our work is complete, only to discover so much more to do. We thought an unhealthy habit was ended, but temptation returns with a fury. We think we fixed a relationship, but it unravels again with hurtful words and distrust. Even our best efforts prove incomplete.

Into this fallen world, Jesus came and spoke words of finality: “It is finished” (John 19:30). In three short words from the cross, he says, “I’ve done it all. I’m it. My work is the ultimate, the final, the full.”

Throughout the next six weeks, we will trace Jesus’ footsteps to the cross and see God’s plan of salvation play out before us. Each week of this prayer journal is guided by one of the last

An Undeserved Pardon

Day 1: Ash Wednesday

Read Psalm 103:1–14.

phrases spoken by Jesus. You will find daily devotions that include Scripture, reflection, and prayer, along with a suggested reading to deepen your study. In addition to the 40 daily devotions, you'll find six Sunday interludes designed to lead you in worshiping and praising our resurrected Savior. The final pages record some powerful words of Scripture, words that emphasize what Jesus' death and resurrection mean in the life of the believer.

May you grow closer ever closer to Jesus through this journey to Easter—as you study the final words of our Savior, as you see his death and wonder at the empty tomb, and as you hear him speak the precious words of salvation to your heart.

Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

Luke 23:34

FOR REFLECTION:

One of the final statements Jesus spoke on earth was to forgive his enemies. "Father, forgive them" was spoken to his murderers. This is strange to us. We expect retaliation and retribution. If an enemy attacks, you have the right to strike back. But Jesus' ways run contrary to our ways. He pardoned the persecutor. He forgave those who injured him even as the injury was being inflicted. These are words the world does not know and cannot speak. Only Christ can pray such a prayer and speak such words. We are grateful for these words of forgiveness, for he speaks them about us. As you write today, consider all the ways you have been an enemy of God, and thank Jesus for his forgiveness from the cross.

Father, forgive me, for I know not what I do. Erase all my sins, for Jesus' sake, and show me . . .

FORGIVENESS (Week 1)

A Bold Plea

Day 2: Thursday

Read 1 John 1:5–9.

Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.

Psalm 25:18

FOR REFLECTION:

We tend to hide our afflictions and troubles. We try to conceal our sins. We don't want others to know about our warts, scars, or secrets. The words of this psalm are different. They are an invitation for God to see it all. "Consider my situation," we plead. "Look at my troubles, even those brought about by my own failing." But the psalm doesn't stop here. It asks God to forgive all the ugliness that he sees. This is a bold request. We dare to ask it, only because we know God's heart to be merciful. We ask for forgiveness because we've heard Jesus offer forgiveness from the cross. With his words ringing in our ears, we are confident to ask, "Lord, forgive me, too." What sins will you take to God today?

Lord, I want to hide, but I can't hide from you. Hear as I confess all my mistakes and tell you all my troubles. Grant me healing and peace in situations like . . .

FORGIVENESS (Week 1)

Forgiveness to the Fullest

Day 3: Friday

Read Hebrews 10:19–23.

For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:34

FOR REFLECTION:

Under normal circumstances, amnesia is a bad thing. In today's verse, it is holy. Could God call up a spreadsheet of all our offenses? Of course. God has the right to recall all our sins. But because of Jesus' forgiveness, he chooses not to remember them. His forgiveness is not partial. He does not keep our record in his back pocket, ready to wave it in our face when we mess up again. The cross is evidence of the finality of forgiveness. Forgiveness is full. Our Savior casts our sin out and away. We are truly and wholly freed by Jesus' blood. Write about the comfort you have in knowing that your sins are remembered no more.

O God, the sins of the past haunt me. In Jesus' name, remember them no more. Show me grace in my present and future. Hold me close to the cross as I . . .

FORGIVENESS (Week 1)

A Model of Forgiveness

Day 4: Saturday

Read Matthew 18:21–35.

Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Matthew 6:12

FOR REFLECTION:

God's forgiveness is infectious. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus tied together God's forgiveness and ours. He invites us not only to ask for forgiveness but to extend it. We respond to God by doing what he has done for us. Like a child looking up to a parent, we mimic God's action. We reflect his heart. We've known the sweetness of forgiveness because Jesus spoke it to us from the cross, "Father, forgive them . . ." How can we not also speak these words to others? The gift is too great to be held back. Whom must you forgive today? Whom can you bless by speaking these words, "As God has forgiven me, so I forgive you"?

Jesus, you taught me to forgive as I have been forgiven. Give me strength to forgive those who have hurt me . . .



First Sunday in Lent

Many Christians around the world participate in 40 days of personal reflection and repentance just before Easter. Sometimes called Lent, this time of preparation excludes Sundays. Each Sunday, then, provides a break from the repentant focus and is celebrated as a "Little Easter." Today, take time to contemplate the resurrection and glory of our Lord.

I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

John 11:25

Resurrection is not a theory or an idea. It is not an abstract doctrine. Jesus himself is resurrection and life. The Christian faith is extraordinarily personal. We believe in a Person, not a proposition. We put our hope and trust in Christ as our Savior.

On this Sunday, focus on this resurrection verse. If you have not already done so, memorize it. Then pray to Christ, thanking him for life in the light of the resurrection.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:10

As it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

Being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:8

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:3–4

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:9

Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power.

Ephesians 1:15–19

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

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*[Jesus said,] "It is finished."
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With one simple statement, Jesus declared his final victory over sin and death.

In that moment, it was hard to understand. Now we see the unfathomable significance. This was not a symbolic death. It was not an inspirational martyrdom. At the cross, Jesus dismantled the power of every evil force that works against God. He shamed every attempt to unseat God. He triumphed as a warrior over every enemy that seeks to destroy us.

This 40-day devotional journal will take you through the seven phrases that your Savior spoke as he hung dying on the cross. His words, simple and misunderstood at the time, are now beacons of hope for those who love and trust in him. The cross, the suffering, the empty tomb, the glory—God uses it all to speak forgiveness and hope to your heart!