

# Finished

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes*

*Based on the Hope From the Cross Series of Matthew Rogers*

*04-20-2025*

## Sermon Summary

The sermon, centered on John 20:1-8 and John 19:30, celebrates Jesus' resurrection and His declaration, "It is finished" (Tetelestai), meaning the successful completion of His mission. The folded cloth in the empty tomb, a carpenter's sign of finished work, convinced John that Jesus rose alive. The sermon explains that Jesus' finished work paid for humanity's sin, bridging the gap caused by Adam and Eve's disobedience. It calls us to stop "paying" for sins through guilt or "earning" God's favor through good deeds, instead accepting Jesus' invitation to freedom through repentance, faith, and baptism (RSVP).

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## Icebreaker (5-7 minutes)

- Share about a time you completed a challenging task (e.g., a work project, home repair, or personal goal). How did it feel to say, "It's done"? Alternatively, what's an unfinished task that's been on your mind, and why hasn't it been completed?

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## Point 1: The Folded Cloth – A Sign of Completion

**Scripture Reading:** Ask [Group Member 1] to read **John 20:7 (CSB)**:

"The wrapping that had been on his head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself."

### **Summary:**

The folded cloth in the tomb was a pivotal detail for John, signaling that Jesus' body wasn't stolen but that He rose alive. The sermon likens this to a carpenter's tradition in Jesus' time: folding a towel neatly to signify a job was complete. Jesus, the carpenter, left this "signature" to declare "Tetelestai" – His work of redemption was finished, fulfilling His purpose to conquer death and sin.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think the folded cloth was such a powerful sign for John, convincing him that Jesus had risen? How does this detail deepen your understanding of the resurrection?
2. The folded cloth was compared to a carpenter's signal of completion. How does the idea of Jesus "finishing" His work on the cross and leaving a sign impact the way you view His sacrifice?

## Point 2: It Is Finished – The Debt of Sin Paid

**Scripture Reading:** Ask [Group Member 2] to read **John 19:30 (CSB):**

“When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, ‘It is finished.’ Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.”

### **Summary:**

Jesus’ cry of “Tetelestai” (It is finished) on the cross meant the debt of human sin was paid in full. Sin, introduced by Adam and Eve, created a chasm between humanity and God. Jesus’ death and resurrection bridged this gap, offering reconciliation. This frees us from trying to “pay” for our sins through guilt or self-punishment, as Jesus took every wrong upon Himself, marking our account with God as “paid in full.”

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus has paid the full debt for your sins? How does this truth challenge any lingering guilt or shame you might carry?
2. The sermon mentions extreme examples like self-punishment to atone for sins. Have you ever felt tempted to “pay” for your mistakes in unhealthy ways? How can trusting in Jesus’ finished work help you let go of this burden?

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## Point 3: Freedom from Earning God’s Favor

**Scripture Reading:** Ask [Group Member 3] to read **Romans 3:23-24 (CSB):**

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

### **Summary:**

Jesus’ finished work also means we no longer need to “earn” God’s approval through good deeds or religious performance. Many live as if on a “performance plan,” trying to do enough to merit heaven. Jesus’ plan is “D-O-N-E” – His completed work justifies us freely by grace. Accepting this frees us to live in relationship with God, not striving to prove our worth but resting in His love and redemption.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Have you ever felt like you needed to “earn” God’s love or approval through your actions? How does the truth that Jesus’ work is “done” change the way you approach your relationship with God?
2. The sermon contrasts religion (“D-O”) with Jesus’ grace (“D-O-N-E”). Where do you see yourself or others falling into the trap of performance-based faith, and how can you embrace the freedom of grace instead?

## Lesson Recap

Jesus' resurrection and His declaration "It is finished" mark the completion of His mission to pay for humanity's sin and reconcile us to God. The folded cloth in the tomb was a sign that Jesus rose alive, having finished His work. This frees us from paying for our sins through guilt or earning God's favor through deeds. Instead, Jesus invites us to accept His finished work through the RSVP process: Realize our need, Say we're sorry, Verbalize our faith, and Plunge our past in baptism. Easter's hope is that we can live free, reunited with God, because Jesus has done it all.

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## Challenge

This week, reflect on one area where you're still trying to "pay" for past mistakes or "earn" God's approval. Each day, pray and meditate on John 19:30 ("It is finished"), asking Jesus to help you trust in His completed work. Share your experience with a trusted friend or group member for encouragement and accountability. If you haven't yet responded to Jesus' invitation, consider taking the RSVP steps – reach out to your Life Group leader or pastor for support.