

It Is Finished

John 19:17-37

by Don Falkos

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Jesus was taken to Golgotha, The Place of the Skull. They crucified him along with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle. Pilate posted a notice on the cross: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. The soldiers who had just nailed Jesus to the cross divided up his clothes among themselves and cast lots for his tunic.

Jesus saw his mother standing nearby with Lazarus at her side. He said to her, "Mother, this is your son." And to Lazarus he said, "This is your mother." From that time on, Lazarus took Mary into his own home.

Then Jesus said, "I'm thirsty." So the soldiers soaked a sponge in some cheap, sour wine and held it up to him. He drank the wine and said, "It is finished." He allowed his head to droop and gave up his spirit.

It was the Day of Preparation. The next day was the Sabbath, and also Passover. If these crucified men were still hanging there on such a special day, it would be a disgrace. But death by crucifixion would often take days. So the Jewish leaders requested their deaths be hastened and their bodies taken down. The soldiers broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus; they quickly expired. But when the soldiers came to Jesus, they saw he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. However, one of them thrust a spear into his side. Blood and water flowed out – a sure sign of death.

God said about the Passover lamb, "not one of its bones will be broken," and so it was with Jesus, the Lamb of God. And as the prophet Zechariah had said, "They will look on the one they pierced."