

FRIDAY... *the crucifixion*

Remember...

This is a victory story... even though in the moment, it may seem otherwise.

Read Matthew 27:27-50

After so many agonizing moments leading to verse 50, in that verse we read, ***“Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and breathed His last.”*** Although Matthew doesn’t tell us what He cried out, John does. John 19:30 records Jesus’ last words as ***“It is finished!”***

When this cry came forth from Jesus’ lips, we must understand that it wasn’t a sigh of defeat. No, Matthew tells us He ***“cried out with a loud voice.”*** And I am convinced it was a loud voice of victory!

See the translation, ***“It is finished!”*** was originally written in Greek as ***“tetelestai.”*** I recently learned some interesting things about this word through the ministry of Rick Warren. He noted this common Greek word ***“tetelestai”*** had many meanings in ancient society. As I’ve studied along with Warren, I believe each meaning speaks loud and clear to the victory cry from Jesus’ lips when He breathed His last.

So what does the word ***“tetelestai”*** mean? Well...

- ***“Tetelestai”*** was used by servants and employees who return to their master with news they had finished the task. **Jesus was crying out that He had finished the task God had given Him!**
- ***“Tetelestai”*** was a legal term judges used to announce that a prisoner had completely served his prison time. **Jesus was crying out that justice had been completely served for our sin.**
- ***“Tetelestai”*** was an accounting term meaning a debt had been paid in full. **Jesus was crying out that He had completely paid our debt of sin in full.**
- ***“Tetelestai”*** was a term which artists used when painting a picture to denote their final stroke. **Jesus was crying out that His sacrifice had finished God’s masterpiece of our redemption.**
- ***“Tetelestai”*** was a priestly term used when priests offered a sacrifice to God. They would say this word to indicate sacrifice had been made. **Jesus was crying out that His death on the cross was the sacrifice made for our sin.**

The rich meaning and impact of Jesus crucifixion is vast... there is so much to see. But for today, perhaps one of the most important words we can learn from Jesus is *“tetelestai,”* because this word sends a clear message that our salvation is a done deal. This word has rich meaning and impact beyond imagination!

I don’t know about you, but I often need to be reminded of that Truth. As life moves forward, there are so many moments when doubts arise in varying ways... but as we center ourselves in the Truth of Jesus’ death for us, we can be reminded of victory. Victory that says, ***“It is finished!”***

Prayer Conversation Starter...

Jesus, thank You for fully completing my salvation! There is nothing left undone. Burn this word ***“tetelestai”*** in my heart and mind and let me never forget it. **I remember Your sacrifice today and celebrate the victory You won for me, and for all who believe in You!**

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