



## John 19:28-30

### The Big Picture:

In the ancient world, *tetelestai*, “It is finished” was used by the following groups in the following ways:

- *Priests*  
When a Priest inspected a sacrifice, he would say, *tetelestai*: “The sacrifice is perfect.”
- *Servants*  
When a servant finished a task, he would take a knee, and say, *tetelestai*: “The task is done.”
- *Artists*  
When an artist put the final touch on a painting, he would say, *tetelestai*: “The work is finished; not a single stroke couldn’t be added or taken away, because it’s complete.”
- *Merchants*  
When a business transaction had been completed, the merchant would essentially hand the customer a receipt that said, *tetelestai*: “The debt has been paid in full.”

### Discuss

1. Describe a time someone has sacrificed so that you could have something.  
How did their sacrifice benefit you? How did it make you feel toward that person?
2. Why was it necessary for Jesus to die? What did His death accomplish?  
How might it be dangerous for us to become “too familiar” with the cross?
3. What about Jesus’ death and resurrection is hard for people to believe?  
Why do you think the Cross is, as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:23, “a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles”?
4. What do you think that Jesus meant by “It is finished”?  
How might Hebrews 9:22-28 help us understand part of it? What has Jesus’ death “finished” in your life?

### RESPOND

- What reaction do you have to the message of the cross?
- What is God leading you to do as a response to that?

