

#4: Mission Accomplished (or “It is Finished”) March 31-April 2, 2007

Mark 15:21 A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²²They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ²³Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. ²⁵It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. ^{27[28]}They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰come down from the cross and save yourself!” ³¹In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! ³²Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him. ³³At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). ^{John 19:28} Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. ³⁰When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. ^{Mark 15:38} The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Mark 15:21-34, 38-39, and John 19:28-30 TNIV

Introduction: The final 24 hours of Jesus’ life changed everything. At Golgotha, Jesus completed the mission and set humanity free by paying the ransom for human sin.

- I. Jesus Makes the Drop (*Mark 15*)
 - A. The ransom was to be paid at “The Place of the Skull,” and Jesus had to go alone. (vv.21-22)
 - B. Jesus was offered a drink, but he did not take it, because he needed a clear head to complete the mission. (v.23)
 - C. Jesus walked straight into the gamblers den. (v.24)
 - D. Jesus was mocked until the bitter end and executed as a common criminal. (vv.26-32)
 - E. Jesus refused to save himself, lest his mission to save humanity become compromised; he had to die in order to “make the drop.”
- II. High Noon at Golgotha (*Mark 15*)
 - A. At noon, an eerie darkness settled in. (v.33)
 - B. After three hours, Jesus cried out in agony: he knew he had been abandoned, and he knew why. (v.34)
 - C. Jesus had taken the sin of the world on his shoulders, and God had turned his back on him.
- III. Mission Accomplished (*John 19*)
 - A. Now Jesus knew that his mission was completed; he had stayed long enough to see it through. (v.28)
 - B. Jesus could finally leave this world and escape his terrific agony. (vv.28-29)
 - C. Jesus cried out “Mission accomplished!” (“It is finished.”) and gave up his life. (v.30)
- IV. The Trap is Sprung (*Mark 15*)
 - A. When Jesus died, the barrier that separated God and human beings was blown open. (v.38)
 - B. Even the soldiers who had helped to kill Jesus could see that something was wrong (or right). (v.39)
 - C. The trap had been sprung, and Satan had been ensnared, though he did not yet know it.
- V. The End of 24, Season 1

Conclusion: In the final hour, Jesus’ mission to save humanity finally became clear. By paying a ransom he did not owe, Jesus had bound Satan and freed humanity all in one action. As Jesus’ final 24 hours came to a close, Satan believed he had achieved a great victory. He would not realize that he had been tricked until the next season.