



Finishing Well

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46).

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“Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. 28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. 29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! 30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. 31 And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him. 32 And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross. 33 And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, 34 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. 35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. 36 And sitting down they watched him there; 37 And set up over his head his accusation written, This Is Jesus The King Of The Jews. 38 Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. 39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, 40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. 41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, 42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. 43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. 44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth. 45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? 47 Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. 48 And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. 49 The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. 50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice,

“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost” (John 19:30).

yielded up the ghost” (Matthew 27:27-50).

Do you always finish what you started? Jesus was not the type that run with haste at the start and backpedal at the heat of the battle. He said in Matthew 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but **he that endureth to the end shall be saved**”. Note what Jesus endured in order to finish well:

- 1) Being stripped of His clothes (vs 28);
- 2) Platted with a crown of thorns (vs 29);
- 3) Mockery and smiting with reed (vs 30);
- 4) Replaced mockery robe with His clothes and led for crucifixion (vs 31);
- 5) Simon compelled to bear His cross (vs 32);
- 6) Refused to drink vinegar and gall (vs 34);
- 7) Crucified and clothes parted (vs 35);
- 8) Being watched (vs 36);
- 9) Accusation set over His head (vs 37);
- 10) Crucified between two thieves (vs 38);
- 11) Continued mocking by crowd (vs 39-44);
- 12) The thieves joined in the mocking (vs 45);
- 13) Jesus cried to the Father (vs 46);
- 14) The crowd misinterpreting His cry to the Father, gave Him vinegar to numb His pain but he refused (vs 47-49; John 19:30);
- 15) Jesus cried again, committed His spirit to the Father and died (vs 50; Luke 23:46).

Maintaining integrity in difficult times and staying the course with fortitude and character is a mark of faithfulness and loyalty to God. God's command for all remain “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer... and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life**” (Revelation 2:10).