



Really???

It is finished! John 19:30

A few weeks ago I was at a leadership retreat (one of those things where corporations pay a lot of money so their leaders become better leaders, and actually it was very productive). The most interesting moment was an exercise where one-by-one the attendees stood up and said what they needed from their peers, what they would promise to their peers and what they needed from the senior leadership team. A fairly intimidating exercise, but very beneficial. When my turn came, I stood and faced the crowd of 50+ and said, "I have failed you and I will fail you again. And what I need is for you to come to me immediately when I do."

I so get that I am a sinner; that I fail. Where I sometimes get hung up is on the 'it is finished' idea. Now don't get me wrong, my theology is solid. I believe that it is by grace I have been saved and not by works, I know that I am completely forgiven but the 'it is finished' is tough for me. I tend to rethink, relive all those moments of failure and the conclusion is usually, what an idiot! So I ask myself and any of you, who suffer from this narcissistic slow motion replay syndrome, if I truly believed, truly grasped the three most powerful words in scripture 'it is finished', would life look different?

It- For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous (that's Him) for the unrighteous (that's you and me sister) to bring you to God. In 1 Peter 3:18 the "it" is the sacrifice needed for reconciliation!

Is-Be-present tense

Finished-done, complete!!! No need for a do-over or a redo.
Finished=Complete =Perfect!

The 'it is finished' piece of forgiveness is the challenge of releasing, walking in the freedom of forgiveness. The looking forward, not backward, piece of forgiveness. I hate disappointing anyone; honestly, I hate to fail! UGH. There it is, the hinge, the reason the 'it is finished' piece is hard. Pride. It is one thing to quietly ask for forgiveness, to privately accept forgiveness. It is quite another to walk with head held high focused on the Giver of forgiveness, completely reliant on the freedom of 'it is finished.' It seems so out of balance that I just get to walk in complete freedom even though I fail. And He the One who knew no sin took on all sin for that freedom. How humbling. My prideful flesh cries out, "let me pay you back." But I can't, because 'it is finished.' No need for do-over or redo. It is finished - complete, perfect.

Reflect and Respond

- 1) What things in life have you finished?
- 2) What are some things in life that someone else jumped in and finished for you? How did you feel about that help, that deliverance? Why did they finish for you? What was your response to that help?
- 3) Write the word 'Free' somewhere where you will see it all day...maybe a post it, or my favorite is on the heel of my hand. Think all day about that word, about that gift!



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