

“It Is Finished”

by
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What In this Readers Theater, audiences are led to focus on the phrase Jesus cried out on the cross, exclaiming that “it is finished,” and how those words impact our lives as Christians. **Themes:** Good Friday, Easter, Jesus’ Sacrifice, Crucifixion, Salvation, Grace, Gospel

Who Actor 1
Actor 2

When Present

Wear (Props) Use matching black folders if you are reading instead of performing the script memorized.

Why John 19; Hebrews 7:23-27; Hebrews 10; 1 Peter 3:18

How This script is best performed memorized, but if you do read it in a “reader’s theatre” style, be as familiar with it as possible so you can look up and out and engage with your audience. Use matching folders if you decide to read instead of memorizing.

If it works well for your actors and your audience, you could also choose to have all your actors say the lines, “It is finished,” together. If so, rehearse well for timing.

Another option is to engage your congregation in a responsive reading type situation and allow them to read, “It is finished,” with you whenever the line exists by itself. If so, it is absolutely essential that your projection techs have a copy of the script and that you rehearse well with them so the text, “It is finished,” will appear on the screen at the correct moments.

Time Approximately 3 minutes

Actors in place before lights up.

Lights up.

Actor 1: Tetelestai (*Google a pronunciation guide if needed.*)

Actor 2: Immediately before breathing his last breath, Jesus loudly cried out one final word on the cross—Tetelestai.

Actor 1: One word with a critical meaning—

Actor 2: It_is_finished!

Actor 1: It is completed, brought to an end, accomplished with finality.

Actor 2: After Satan had shamed, beaten, mocked, tortured, and crucified the Son of God...

Actor 1: As the devil celebrated because he had done his worst...

Actor 2: Jesus didn't just whisper out a meager resolution, "I'm finished"—

Actor 1: Exhausted, giving up, surrendering to death and the enemy.

Actor 2: Oh, no. He declared for all eternity, "IT is finished."

Actor 1: The Law was made perfect.

Actor 2: Jesus had obeyed His Father's will.

Actor 1: It is finished.

Actor 2: God's righteous wrath had collided with God's perfect grace and love.

Actor 1: Justice had been satisfied.

Actor 2: Reconciliation between flawed humanity and a holy God was made possible.

Actor 1: It is finished.

Actor 2: The Son allowed people to see a glimpse of the Father.

Actor 1: He brought light to the nations.

Actor 2: It is finished.

Actor 1: The Messianic prophecies had been fulfilled.

Actor 2: The veil was torn.

Actor 1: The Old Testament sacrificial system was now obsolete.

Actor 2: Jesus Christ became the blameless sacrifice for every sin.

Actor 1: Once and for all, the debt was paid in full.

Actor 2: Now and for always.

Actor 1: It is finished

Actor 2: There is nothing more for you or me to add.

Actor 1: Your good works are insufficient to appease a holy God.

Actor 2: Turning over a new leaf will get you nothing eternal.

Actor 1: Your striving for perfection will never be good enough to improve on what Jesus has already done.

Actor 2: It is finished.

Actor 1: Your poverty nor your prosperity will earn you reconciliation with God.

Actor 2: You cannot give enough, acquire enough, or deprive yourself enough to profit God's favor.

Actor 1: And you will never be able to attend enough religious gatherings to add anything to His completed work on the cross.

Actor 2: Your performance, your talent, your intellect are all deficient for salvation.

Actor 1: It is finished.

Actor 2: An extra special word or understanding is not required.

Actor 1: You don't need a new revelation from a preacher, a prophet, a teacher, book, blog, friend, or even yourself.

Actor 2: It is finished.

Actor 1: Anything you try to add to His completed work in order to be made right with God is impotent—

Actor 2: Perhaps, even insulting...

Actor 1: And actually, heretical.

Actor 2: It is finished.

Actor 1: So, what does one do when the work of salvation is complete?

Actor 2: Believe and repent.

Actor 1: Rest.

Actor 2: Worship and give thanks.

Actor 1: Rejoice and share.

Actor 2: Believe that Jesus is Lord and has fully paid the debt of salvation.

Actor 1: Repent from your belief in your own self-sufficiency and follow Jesus exclusively.

Actor 2: It is finished!

Actor 1: Rest. Quit striving for God's love, acceptance, and forgiveness.

Actor 2: The work is done. Accept it. Rest in it. And live every day in the gospel.

Actor 1: Worship and give thanks.

Actor 2: Give Him the glory He is due.

Actor 1: Express gratitude for His mercy and grace.

Actor 2: It is finished!

Actor 1: Rejoice and share!

Actor 2: Doesn't everyone need to know about this freedom?

Actor 1: Praise Jesus!

Both: It is finished!

Lights down unless finishing with a song.