



STUDY GUIDE

April 4, 2021

Message Series:

Famous Last Words

Message Title:

It is Finished

Teaching Pastor:

Brian Hughes

### Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Name a time you started something that you did not finish and/or name a project you are most proud of finishing.

### Pray:

Dear Lord, many of us enter into Easter hungry for a new beginning, eager for the light to shine in the darkness. We remember Jesus' passion, help us to walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection. Give us ears to hear you and eyes to see how You continue to make all things new. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Get Started:

It is said that Fiorello LaGuardia, a mayor of NYC during the worst days of the Great Depression and all of W.W.II., was a colorful character. He rode the New York City fire trucks, raided city "speakeasies" with the police department, took entire orphanages to baseball games, and when the New York newspapers went on strike, he got on the radio and read the Sunday funnies to the kids.

One bitterly cold night in January of 1935, the mayor turned up at a night court that served the poorest ward of the city. LaGuardia dismissed the judge for the evening and took over the bench himself. Within a few minutes, a tattered old woman was brought before him, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. She told LaGuardia that her daughter's husband had deserted her, her daughter was sick, and her two grandchildren were starving. But the shopkeeper, from whom the bread was stolen, refused to drop the charges. "It's a real bad neighborhood, your Honor," the man told the mayor. "She's got to be punished to teach other people around here a lesson." LaGuardia sighed. He turned to the woman and said, "I've got to punish you. The law makes no exceptions. Ten dollars or ten days in jail." But even as he pronounced the sentence, the mayor was already reaching into his pocket. He extracted a bill and tossed it into his famous hat, saying, "Here is the ten dollar fine which I now remit; and furthermore I am going to fine everyone in this courtroom fifty cents for living in a town where a person has to steal bread so that her grandchildren can eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to the defendant." The following day, New York City newspapers reported that \$47.50 was turned over to a bewildered woman who had stolen a loaf of bread to feed her starving grandchildren.

- What impacts you the most reading this story so close to Easter?

"Jesus' Tetelestai declaration was a signal to everyone that no more blood would be required. Tetelestai also means that the debt has been paid in full. Tetelestai was most commonly used in collecting debts. When a person paid off a loan they were given a document with a stamp on it that said "tetelestai" and that was their proof that the debt was now paid in full. No more payments required. When Jesus shouts Tetelestai, people would have recognized his word this way. He is announcing that our debt is paid in full, we're settled up with God."

-Pastor Brian Hughes

**Watch and Discuss Video:** (running time 12 Minutes)

**Read Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20** (read the whole chapter or excerpts of the Resurrection account as time permits)

- Is there overlap in these passages or do they each have distinguishing details? Did you learn anything new by reading all of the accounts of the Resurrection side by side?

**Read 1 Corinthians 15.**

- Does Paul's defense of the Resurrection surprise you in any way?
- Based on what Paul wrote, what will it be like when our bodies are also resurrected? Does this change the way you approach your life now (and if so, how)?

**Reflect and Commit:**

“On this, the most sacred of our year, we don’t celebrate a dead God or a distant God or an uncaring God or a God of judgement, condemnation and fear. We celebrate THE God who would lay down his own life for us. THE God who would suffer for us. THE God who would leave the trappings of heaven and the pleasure of paradise because He loves us THAT Much. It’s worth celebrating. Jesus was the great Passover Lamb of God whose death was to save the whole world from sin. And with that, the culmination of the wine, the hyssop, the torture, the sinlessness, the selflessness, the grace-filled forgiveness of a hateful people and wayward children and a broken crowd - with all of that behind him, Jesus announces “It. Is. Finished.” The tomb is empty not because of a hoax or myth or a conspiracy, but because He lives. Period. It is finished. -Pastor Brian Hughes

**Read Romans 5:6-11.**

- Do you think believers can become too familiar with Easter or passages regarding the Resurrection (to the point of taking it for granted)? How can this be prevented?
- What do you think Paul means by “boast” here? Why is it important we do this?

**Pray:**

Lord God, You loved this world so much, that you gave Your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, *everyday*. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that grace and tell Your Good News to the world. It’s for Your glory Lord. Amen.