



Christ At the Center

Key idea:

All works are done through Christ, who fills our thirst.

Key text:

John 19:28-30

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A 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. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Key points:

1. Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies, demonstrating He is the center of all Scripture.
2. Our souls thirst for God, and only He can truly satisfy us.
3. Jesus experienced human struggles, allowing Him to relate to us fully.
4. Christ's declaration "It is finished" marks the completion of God's redemptive plan.
5. Putting anything other than Jesus at the center of our lives leads to ongoing dissatisfaction and spiritual thirst.

Discussion Questions:

1. The teaching emphasized how John repeatedly points out fulfilled prophecies in Jesus' crucifixion. Why do you think this was so important to John? How does it impact your view of Scripture and Jesus?
2. Discuss the deeper meaning of Jesus saying "I am thirsty" on the cross. How does this relate to our spiritual thirst for God?
3. Abnel mentioned that Jesus can relate to our human struggles because He experienced them. How does this truth bring you comfort in your own difficulties?
4. How does Jesus' statement 'It is finished' challenge our tendency to try to earn salvation or add to Christ's work on the cross?
5. Why is it significant that only Jesus can be at the center of our lives and the universe? What happens when we try to put ourselves or other things at the center?
6. What are some modern-day 'wells' that people drink from, seeking satisfaction, and how do they compare to the living water Jesus offers?
7. Reflect on times when you've tried to satisfy your spiritual thirst with things other than God. What was the result?
8. How does understanding that Jesus "finished" everything on the cross impact your view of salvation and your daily walk with God?

Practical Applications:

1. **Daily Reflection:** Each day this week, ask yourself, "Is Jesus at the center of my life today?" Journal about areas where you might be putting other things first.
2. **Scripture Study:** Choose one of the Old Testament prophecies mentioned in the teaching and study how it relates to Jesus' crucifixion.
3. **Thirst Awareness:** When you feel physical thirst this week, use it as a reminder to turn to God for spiritual satisfaction.
4. **Sharing Your Story:** Prepare to share with the group next week about a time when you experienced the insufficiency of worldly things and how God satisfied your deeper needs.
5. **Prayer Focus:** Spend time each day thanking Jesus for "finishing" the work of salvation and asking for help to rest in that truth.