



Cries from the Cross Sermon Series

Sermon #5

'The Fifth Cry: Thirst!'

This past Wednesday in Cries from the Cross:

- This past Wednesday, we looked at what are quite possibly the most complexing and complicated phrases that Jesus said while on the cross.
 - Jesus said, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'
 - Wednesday we discussed *'The Fourth Cry: Anguish!'* as we looked at *Matthew 27:46*.
 - I asked the question: *What does the Fourth saying of Jesus on the Cross say to us concerning what Jesus was feeling in this exact moment?*
 - Point 1: *Surreal Agony.*
 - Point 2: *Spiritual Anguish.*

- Point 3: *Social Alienation.*

- Based on Wednesday's sermon, do we realize that God cannot forsake us because He already forsook His Son?
 - Do we truly realize what Jesus did on the Cross so that you and I might be saved.

'The Fifth Cry: Thirst!'

John 19:28-29

Sermon in a Sentence:

When Jesus said the words on the Cross 'I Thirst' He showed us that He was Fully Omniscient and that He was Fully Obedient.

Intro:

- We are now on the back end of the statements that Jesus made while on the cross.
 - *The first 4 statements that Jesus made on the Cross had to do about others.*
 - He was thinking about us when He asked God to forgive us.
 - He was thinking about the thief on the Cross when salvation was offered to him.
 - He was thinking about His mother when we made arrangements for her.
 - He was thinking of His father and the spiritual anguish when He uttered the

words 'My God, my God. Why have you forsaken me.'

- ***Tonight, Jesus makes a personal statement that I believe all of us can relate too.***

- *With the two words that Jesus states here in the english (1 word in the greek), we can relate to Jesus and remember that He was God, while He was also man.*

- 'Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,' Hebrews 2:14

- *With just these two words in our text, you may be thinking, what relevance does the phrase 'I thirst' have to my personal walk with Jesus?*

- We must realize that what Jesus says here shows that He can relate to us.

- ***Jesus knew what it was like to thirst, to feel pain, to suffer, and to go through that trials that we do.***

- He's not a good immune to suffering, rather He became suffering.

- John Stott was a British theologian who said ***'I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?'***

- Buddhism, Hiddiusm, Islam, and all other religions don't have saviors, they have statesmen.

- ***Good countrymen who wanted to save their people but could not.***

- ***Jesus could, and He did, and He experienced human emotions.***

- ****Illustration****

- I want you, for a quick moment, in your mind, to think back to the time in your life where you were thirsty. I mean physically thirsty.

- ***All human beings have had that time in their life, where we've experienced extreme thirst.***

- For me, my mind takes me back to the 2nd Grade when I was in elementary school.

- I'm not sure why, but I remember this clearly and vividly.

- ***It was field day, and we were playing Tug of War out on the fields by the school.***

- I vividly remember my teacher telling us that it was 109 degrees, and that we needed to make sure we were drinking plenty of water because we'd be out there all day.

- ***We kept drinking water, until suddenly there was no more water.***

- I remember laying out in the middle of that soccer field in 109 degree weather, thinking how thirsty and hot I really was.
- *Thankfully, I can't remember a time where I was that thirsty since.*
 - I share this illustration to show, that the same way I was thirsty as a 2nd grader years ago, Jesus was thirsty on the Cross.
 - *But I believe His thirst on the Cross shows us several important things that we need to consider.*

Read John 19:28-29

Question to Ask:

What does this question, with only two words, show us about our Lord as He was dying for our sins on the Cross?

Point 1: *Jesus was Fully Omniscient. (V. 28a)*

- ‘After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture),’
 - The word **Omniscient** is defined as the possession of universal or complete knowledge.
 - *On wednesday we briefly touched on the fact that Jesus went through intense & immense physical agony.*
 - Even as He was experiencing this pain, His judgment was still there, His mind

was still there and He was still fixated on His mission for us.

- *There are certain scholars that look at the phrase ‘I thirst’ and accuse Jesus of being out of His mind and not aware of what’s going on due to the sheer amount of pain He’s going through.*
- Instead, I believe that in this moment Jesus was still fully Omniscient and fully aware of what was going on.
- *Throughout the OT, there are several passages that are concerned with the Crucifixion.*
 - Psalms 22.
 - Genesis 22.
 - Isaiah 53.
 - Leviticus 16.
 - *J. Vernon McGee notes that there were 28 prophecies that were fulfilled while Jesus was on the Cross.*
- One of the last one’s that is fulfilled, is right here in our text, John 19:28.
 - Before we see the two words (in english)that Jesus says, we see that John is adding some commentary.

- *This extra commentary shows us that Jesus knew exactly what He was doing.*
- *The soldiers and bystanders didn't realize that they were playing roles to fulfill the scriptures, but Jesus knew what He had to do and was fully aware of the OT and that His painful mission wasn't yet completed.*
- I believe that we see that Jesus was fully Omniscient in two ways.
- **The Messianic Prophecies.**
 - The phrase that Jesus states here on the Cross in John 19:28, fulfills what most scholars believe is two different OT prophecies concerning this.
 - *Now it's important to know that Jesus is not just saying He's thirsty to fulfill scripture, while that is true, He was also physically thirsty.*
 - One the purposes behind crucifixion for the Romans, was the purpose of dehydrating the victims.
 - *They were in the hot sun with blood spewing out, so of course, He was also physically thirsty.*
 - Dr. D.A. Carson said **'But Jesus' mind is so steeped in Scripture that He understands the**

relevance of the Davidic texts to Himself.'

- While physically suffering, He doesn't forget the Old Testament Messianic Prophecies that He's yet to fulfill. Let's look at two of them.
- #1: **Psalms 69:21**
 - 'They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.'
 - **In Matthew 27:34, we see that Jesus rejected the pain-deading wine that was given to those about to be crucified.**
 - 'they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.'
 - I believe this was because He (Jesus), was fully aware that the prophecy of having sour wine had not yet been fulfilled, so He consciously asks for something to drink.
 - **The sour wine was usually kept around the cross for the soldiers, not usually used for the criminals on the cross.**
 - They were offered what Jesus was offered at first in Matthew 27:34.

- ***So when we see that this sour wine was not regularly offered, we can see that it makes this prophecy that much more remarkable.***
 - W.W. said *'He had just emerged from three hours of darkness when He felt the wrath of God and separation from God. When you combine darkness, thirst, and isolation, you have hell.'*
- Not only did Jesus fulfill Psalms 69:21, He also fulfilled, Psalms 22:15.
- **#2: *Psalms 22:15***
 - *'my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.'*
 - *The best english word I can use to describe this prophecy is the word 'parched'.*
 - When your tongue sticks to the roof of your mouth, you are thirsty. No doubt about it.
 - We will discuss this prophecy more in depth when we look at how Jesus was full obedient.
- ***We see that is Fully Omniscient in the fact He fulfills the Messianic prophecies, but He also knows the mission must progress.***
- ***The Mission Progresses.***

- *'After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture),'*
- I truly believe that Jesus asked for the sour wine not just because of the scriptural significance and the physical, but also because He needed to have moisture in his throat so that He could proclaim the loud cry that we find in verse 30 and that we will look at next Sunday.
 - ***For Jesus, this mission doesn't stop until He is at the right hand of God.***
- ****Word Study****
 - The phrase 'to fulfill the scripture' that John mentions here is interesting in the greek text.
 - ***John uses the greek verb 'Teleiothe'.***
 - This is significant because elsewhere in John's Gospel, he uses the verb ***'pleroo'*** which means fulfill, but here Teleioo is conjugated to mean to complete.
 - ***Jesus is getting closer to 'completing' His mission and the phrase 'I am Thirsty' is a true example of this.***
 - Dr. D.A. Carson said *'The completion of His work is necessarily the fulfillment of scripture and the performance of the Father's will. Jesus' cry 'I am thirsty', the final instance of*

his active, self-conscious obedience in the fourth Gospel and so tied to 'it is finished, thus represents 'not the isolated fulfilling of a particular trait in the scriptural picture, but the perfect completion of the whole prophetic image.'

- *Jesus is not just fulfilling, He is completing what the Father sent Him to earth to do.*

- Wow, the Omniscience of Christ truly is on display with just these two words.

Point 2: *Jesus was Fully Obedient. (V. 28b-29)*

- "I thirst. A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth."
 - *As hard as it had to be, Jesus never deviated from the mission that God the Father had given Him.*
 - He was fully obedient.
 - *As mentioned a few moments ago, Jesus was offered another drink as He made His way to the cross.*
 - Just as Matthew 27:34 is a reference to the drink that would ease the pain, Mark 15:23 also makes it clear that this was 'wine mixed with myrrh' which kind folks offered to Jesus as He carried His Cross.

- *We need to see that this was a sedative. Something to ease the pain.*

- 'And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.' Mark 15:23
 - *I think this is important to point out, because Jesus had multiple opportunities to lessen the pain, but He didn't take them.*
- Dr. D.A. Carson said '*That was a sedative designed to dull the agony, and Jesus refused to drink it. He was fully resolved to drink, instead, the cup of suffering the Father had assigned Him.*'
 - Jesus obeyed even when it was difficult to do so. Jesus was fully obedient all throughout His earthly Mission, and obedient with all that we see concerning the Cross.
- *Because Jesus declined the medicated wine that was offered to Him earlier, we know that He wanted to be fully aware and alert to what was going on. Remember, He has a mission to complete.*
 - *Before we examine the reasons for Jesus' Thirst, I need to ask you, are you fully obedient to God?*

- No matter what you're up against or what you're facing, are you obedient to the Lord no matter what?
- ***When we are fully obedient to God, we realize that His opinion is the only one that truly matters in life.***
 - Do we live in that way?
- ***Reasons for His Thirst:***
 - #1: ***Physical***. Psalms 22:15.
 - 'my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.'
 - The phrases 'dried up', and 'tongue sticks to my jaws' and 'dust of death', all give indication that Jesus was thirsty.
 - ***I think it's important to note that the roman soldiers did not have to give Jesus some of this wine.***
 - ***They were apart of fulfilling the prophecy without even knowing it.***
 - You and I also have a choice on whether we meet the physical needs of those around us.
 - ***Have you ever thought about the fact that we can serve Jesus by giving others a cold drink of water in His name?***

- 'Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,[a] you did it to me.' Matthew 25:34-40

- ***Jesus Thirsted physically. But how often do you and I thirst and***

yearn to fill the physical needs of others?

- See a need, fill a need, and when we do it for the least of those around us, we are doing it for Christ Jesus.
 - ***What are the physical needs in your path that God has laid before you that you have yet to fulfill?***
- #2: ***Spiritual***. Psalms 42:1-2.
 - ‘As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?’ Psalms 42:1-2
 - ***We know that Jesus was Spiritually Thirsty because we know that Jesus specifically followed what the Father had told Him to do.***
 - Our obedience, or lack thereof, to God is a direct reflection of our spiritual thirst.
 - ***Is your walk with the Lord more out of spiritual obligation than spiritual obedience?***
 - When was the last time that you truly yearned for the Lord?
 - ***Sometimes we don't thirst for God the way that we were created too because***

we spend more time on Road blocks than we do reading the Bible.

- If you want to obey God, check your tank when it comes to the spiritual thirst that you desire.
 - ***Christ was on the Cross, dying for our sins, and Thirsted for the Father because during the moment that the Son took on our sin, He was separated from the Father.***
 - We have unlimited access to God the Father through the Holy Spirit, yet how often do we actually thirst for Him.
- If your tank is low on spiritual thirst this morning, then why don't you ask God to remove whatever is holding you back from pursuing God totally.
 - ***It could be a certain person in your life.***
 - ***It could be a certain thing in your life.***
 - ***There could be idols in your life.***
 - ***Maybe it's the lack of priority that Christ Jesus has in your life.***
 - Whatever it is for you, it's important that you deal with it. And that your soul pants for the living God, just like the deer pants for flowing streams.
- ‘Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks

of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.[a] The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

- *Maybe you've had a sip of the living water, before, but are you drinking from it everyday?*

Conclusion:

- This morning, with just the simple words 'I Thirst', I hope and pray we've been able to see the magnitude of Jesus's words.
 - I hope you've been able to see that Jesus was and is Fully *Omniscient*.
 - I hope you've been able to see that Jesus was fully *Obedient* until the very end.
 - *We can trust in the omniscience of our God, and we can be obedient because Christ was obedient.*
 - But, if you haven't accepted Him as the true and full offering for your sin and it is Christ who took your place, then you need to do that before you leave this place.
 - *Maybe you are a believer, but your well has been dry for quite some time.*
 - *I want to encourage you to thirst for God, chase after God, and pursue Him with all your might.*

- Remove the obstacles that may be stunting your thirst. And run to Him fully and completely.