

The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross: part 5 of 7

John 19:28-29 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, *said, **“I am thirsty.”** ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth.

Introduction

Today we are going to think about the fifth word of Jesus on the cross: *I am thirsty*. May God grant us the understanding of our Lord Jesus Christ through His word. Here’s what I am going to talk about this morning: 1. We need to look at our life through God’s lens not through our own or from the worldly perspective. 2. We need to take God’s Word seriously, because our eternal life depends on it. 3. Go to Christ our Savior in times of need because He understands what we are up against and delivers us from our trouble. Once again, I will lead you through verse by verse.

Content

After this, Jesus, knowing that **all things had already been accomplished** (v. 28): 2,000 years ago, God’s salvation plan for humanity culminated at the cross in Christ’s suffering and death. At the cross, Jesus was satisfied with the way His life was ending. Even though in human eyes His death appeared to be a tragic event, in God’s sight His life was not a failure. It was an utter failure in human eyes, but it was a huge success in God’s eyes! A great achievement! Let me say it again. At the cross, God’s plan for Christ was completed through and through. What was God’s plan for Him? To save humanity from their sins by paying the wages of their sin through His own death. At the cross, His mission was fully accomplished.

Here’s a lesson for us: we need to look at our own life not as the world dictates but as God sees. In the worldly standards, most of us may not look that great. Not many of us are rich, don’t have titles behind our names, or have nothing much to show off. In the worldly standards, many of us are just nobody. We are just ordinary folks, right? But it is not so in God’s perspective. For instance, did you know that you mean a world to your heavenly Father? The LORD our God is delighted with you and rejoices over you with singing (Zephaniah 3:17). Did you also know that you are the blessed one in God’s sight, because you believe in Jesus? (John 20:29). In the world, people may envy you only if you are a billionaire living in a mansion, or if you have five doctorates. But those things never impress God, because they don’t last. God looks everything in your life from eternal perspective. That’s why if you don’t believe in Jesus, in God’s eyes you are not blessed. That’s how

widely different God's perspective is from that of the world. We need to train ourselves to look at our lives as God sees.

The real question is how we look at everything in life through God's eyes, right? By understanding and testing everything against God's truth. By renewing our mind with God's Word. The Lord commands us *not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind* (Romans 12:2). Check yourself too where your eyes are fixed now. Are your eyes fixed on the worldly success, money and fame or on the Lord and His glory? Our focus should be God's will and His opinion not those of the world. I wonder how many of us will be able to say on our deathbed that "I have finished my race. God's will / purpose is completed in my life." May God bless us to live out our lives according to His will every day.

Let me say it again how special you are in God's eyes: You are a treasured possession of God. You are fearfully and wonderfully made by God (Psalm 139:14). God is very pleased and proud of how He created you. He said, "Wow!" to Himself after He created you. You exist and were created by His will. That means, God has a plan for you (do you agree, do you accept, do you believe?). And in God's book all the days of your life are already written, even before you were born (Psalm 139:16). You are unique. You are one of a kind. Your fingerprints are the proof. There's no one like you in the entire universe. You are not just one of the numbers out there. You are not an accident. Your life is not a waste, either. Far from it! You have a God-ordained mission in your life. Look at yourself as God sees you. Treat your life accordingly. Live it out faithfully and gratefully.

To fulfill the Scripture, (Jesus) said, "I am thirsty" (v. 28): Why did Jesus say He was thirsty? So that He would fulfill the Scripture. So that the soldiers, in verse 29, would bring Him sour wine to drink. All of this was prophesied by King David a thousand years ago and it was being fulfilled at the cross. David's prophecy was: ²¹*They also gave me gall for my food And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink* (Psalm 69:21, NASB).

By now, you might have noticed that Jesus was very meticulous about fulfilling God's prophecies concerning Himself throughout His life on earth from birth to death. He indeed fulfilled every prophecy on Himself even at the cross as He was dying. Here's what the Bible says about Jesus and prophecies. All prophecies in the Scripture point to Jesus: "*For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*" (Revelation 19:10, NASB). All the Scriptures testify about Jesus the Messiah (John 5:39): all the Law of Moses (Torah), Prophets, and Psalms are about Him, and *they must be fulfilled* (Luke 24:44). That's why Christ made sure that even His last words on the cross fulfilled a prophecy on Him in the Scriptures.

Let me briefly mention the characteristics of the Scripture: first, **it will never pass away**. It will stand forever. Question for you: between the Word of God and the universe, which one will outlast the other? As for me, I will bet all I have on God's Word rather than the universe, because that's what Christ said. This is what He said about the everlasting nature of God's Word: *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away* (Mark 13:31, NASB). The Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35). It will never pass away.

Next, **it is given for our life here on earth:** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path* (Psalm 119:105, NASB). God's Word is a GPS for our life on earth. It keeps us from falling into temptation. It keeps us safe within a divine boundary. It will help us to walk in His light and glorify His name. E.g., Do not covet or defraud each other. ¹⁶ *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;* ¹⁷ *so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work* (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NASB). God's Word is indeed more precious than thousands of pieces of silver and gold (Psalm 119:72). God's Word equips us for a fruitful and abundant life in Christ here on earth.

Thirdly, **it is also given for our eternal life**, which is Christ (1 John 5:20). We read, study, and search the Scriptures to know Christ. But, to know Christ, we need the enlightenment from the Lord. The Lord must open our minds so that we may understand the Scriptures and so that we may find the Christ our eternal life. Without the enlightenment and the guidance from the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures will remain dead letters that have no relevance whatsoever. So, if you don't get anything out of the Scriptures, ask the Holy Spirit to open up your mind to understand it. E.g., The risen Christ appeared to His disciples and opened up their minds to understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:45). Get into the Scriptures for your eternal life.

"I am thirsty" (v. 28): I don't think Jesus was lying here. He was really thirsty. His body demanded water. Why was He thirsty? Due to the loss of His blood. He has been steadily losing His blood and water for almost six hours through the punctures on His hands, feet, and the side (Mark 15:25, 34). Ordinary person would've perished much sooner. However, Jesus lasted longer. He was thirsty.

Perfecting the Savior: Speaking of His thirst, I believe, Christ could've easily quenched it using His supernatural power. After all, He Himself is the living water (John 7:38). Yet, He chose not to use His divine power to quench His thirst, because He wanted to stay human even to the last second of His life. In fact, throughout His life, He remained perfectly human and experienced every aspect of what any normal human being goes through such as fatigue, sleep, thirst, hunger, stresses, emotions, and even death. The Scriptures declare that God made Him that way: totally divine yet also totally human. That means, He was vulnerable as we are. He was even tempted like we are (Matthew 4). As a matter of fact, God's plan for the Savior went even further: *perfect Him through sufferings*. Wow! In fact, He has gone through more sufferings than any one of us. Listen to Hebrews 2:10 which says, *"For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to **perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings**"* (NASB).

Quickly. Why did Christ suffer? For perfection. Why perfection through sufferings? So that He would understand human struggles and challenges. So that He would have mercy on us. So that He can help us with compassion. Hebrews chapter 4:14-16 says this:

“¹⁴ Therefore, since *we have a great high priest* who has passed through the heavens, *Jesus the Son of God*, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One *who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin*. ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, *so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need*” (Hebrews 4:14-16, NASB). We can go to Christ anytime we need His help, because He understands us. He will help us through.

Conclusion

Summary of the sermon: start looking at your life as God sees. Do not let the world judge your life based on its standards. Thank God for your faith in Jesus because that alone makes God proud of you. Not all the worldly achievements. Walk humbly with Him every day. Next, study diligently the Scriptures with the help of the Holy Spirit, because your eternal life depends on it. Finally, in times of need, cry out to Christ the Savior with confidence, and He will deliver you from your trouble, because He understands what you go through daily. Amen.