

# 5th Word From The Cross

3-31-19

## Suffering. I Thirst

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-5 A.L. - Kids/Easter. Easter Hosp. Easter Service Times. Unfolding Gospel.
- B. Slide6 Genesis - starting up this Wed night.
  1. George Bernard Shaw said, *If the other planets are inhabited, then they must be using the earth for their insane asylum. :)*
    - a) We laugh but it reminds us of a sad fact: The world is in a **mess**, and it doesn't seem to be *getting any better*. **What's wrong?** It all goes back to events recorded in the Book of Genesis (ch's 3-11 *man's failures* 1 after another). (*barashit bara Elohim*)
    - b) It's all about living by **promises** and not by **explanations**.

### II. Slide7,8 **I THIRST (JN.19:28)**

- A. He taught us how to **live**, and now He'll teach us how to **die**.
- B. The **4th Word** *had been* the echo of the deep suffering of **His soul** (*My God, My God...*).  
Now, The **5th Word** is a cry from the suffering of **the body**.
  1. Here for the 1st time he turns His attention to *His own suffering*.
  2. He could have created a stream of *ice tea* or *Perrier* to flow into His mouth, or cause it to *start raining*, but chose instead to cry out, *I thirst!*
- C. Slide9 Jn.19:28-30<sup>ESV</sup> *After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." 29 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. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

### III. Slide10 **I THIRST, SHOWS CHRISTS REVERENCE FOR SCRIPTURE**

- A. *To fulfill the Scripture*, was both a **result** and a **purpose**.
  1. Ps.22:14,15 *I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; 15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.*

2. Ps.69:21 *They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.*

B. Jesus Christ fulfilled all the qualifications of being the **Messiah**.

1. By declaring **I thirst** Jesus was saying *His sufferings measured up to the sufferings that the Savior of the world had to undergo to save His people.*

#### IV. Slide11a **I THIRST, SHOWS EVIDENCE OF CHRIST HUMANITY**

A. **I Thirst** reflects His **complete & full Humanity**.

1. The definition given in 451ad at *the counsel of Chalcedon* (a city near Istanbul) affirms Christ was, **truly God & truly man**.
2. It was a genuine thirst. It was a **human** thirst.
3. **Wait**, How does He who said He was Living Water, get thirsty? How does He who said He was Jacob's Well, get thirsty?
4. **God** does not get thirsty. He is never short on fluids. **Angels** don't even get thirsty. **So**, this is proof of His **humanness**.

B. It's interesting the **1st heresy** in the church didn't come against *Jesus Divinity* but against His **Humanity**.

1. I love **Asian Fusion** (combination of various cuisines). **Eg.** Rolling Moon Sushi (French Fries, topped w/melted cheese, topped w/spicy tuna & green onions).
  - a) **But** God doesn't like **Religious Fusion**.
2. **Gnosticism** was a heresy from the beginning of Christianity. It was a product of *the spirit of religious fusion*. It borrowed elements of *Judaism, Christianity, Greek philosophy and Oriental mysticism*.
3. **Slide11b Gnostics** - believed **matter was evil & the spirit was good**.
  - a) "Because matter was evil, **the Messiahs body** what's thought by some to be only an appearance (phantom/ghostly), by others to be merely a human body that the Messiah **used** from his baptism until his death on the cross."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Howard Vos, Exploring Church History.

(1) If He walked on sand he'd leave no foot prints. [which would have put that guy out of business w/the *Foot prints in the sand* plaques]

- b) Slide11c **John** was already dealing with it at the end of the 1st century. 1 Jn.4:2,3 *Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ **has come in the flesh** is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has **come in the flesh** is not of God.*

## V. Slide12a **I THIRST, SHOWS THE INTENSITY OF CHRISTS SUFFERING**

A. The crucifixion obviously would cause **Thirst**.

1. **Excruciating pain** - **Excruciating** = based on the latin, **crux/cross**. Torture.
2. **Dehydration** - Body fluids are depleted. And you crave liquids. *Crucifixion is a long, slow dehydration.*
3. When you combine, *darkness, thirst, & isolation*, you have **hell**.
  - a) **Jesus** experienced **Hell** on the **cross** (each one of these).
  - b) In **Hell** there is intense thirst. Lk.16:24 *send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in **water** and **cool my tongue**; for I am tormented in this flame.*
    - (1) Slide12b Erwin Lutzer said, *Hell is **heightened desires w/decreased satisfaction**. Hell is the **inflamed desires** of the body, w/no possibility of a **drink**. Hell is remembering the Living Water we could have enjoyed on earth that would have taken us to heaven.*
    - (2) **Hell** a perpetual *thirsting*. **Heaven** a perpetual *quenching*.
  - c) Slide12c Rev.7:16,17. *They shall hunger no more, **neither thirst anymore**; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and **he will guide them to springs of living water**...*

## VI. Slide13a **I THIRST, SPEAKS TO 3 CUPS**

A. **1st CUP CHARITY** - Mt.27:34 *they offered him wine to drink, **mixed with gall**, but when he tasted it, **he would not drink it**.*

1. This was a medicated wine (wine w/gall) an **anesthetic**. A drink given in mercy to sedate the sufferer.

2. He refused it, that He might meet His ordeal **fully, intellectually alert & alive**.
- B. **2nd CUP SYMPATHY** - This time here He accepted it...although w/o the **gall** this time.
1. Though it didn't **quench His thirst**, it **revived** Him & **strengthened** Him for the last 2 cries which He uttered.
  2. The soldier **couldn't** have brought him water, nor new wine...**the prophecy** called for **vinegar** (or, sour wine/wine vinegar. **fermentation beyond the alcohol stage**) *This was **posca**, a cheap wine that was common among Roman soldiers and the lower classes. [dip their bread in it/vinegar]*
- C. **3rd CUP INIQUITY** - up on **skull hill** there was a third cup, which Jesus drank all the way to the bottom.
1. Remember Peter & the sword incident? Jesus said, **shall I not drink the cup the father has given me?** This was the cup of gods wrath... filled to the brim.<sup>2</sup>
- D. Let's not discount the possibility of it speaking **spiritually** also.
1. Slide13b Jesus would say w/David, **As the deer pants for the water brooks, 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?** Ps.42:1,2
  2. Yes, right after **the forsakenness from His Father**, you know He was thirsting for His Father's presence. :)
    - a) We are thirsty people. We go through life **panting for something, anything**...that will gratify our thirsty souls. **Over & over the bible whispers, Be thirsty for God!**
- E. Let's look at one individual, at the foot of the cross.
1. Mt.27:48 **And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink.**
  2. **Who was this person? a soldier?...**who served Jesus so beautifully in his last moments?
    - a) **We don't know his name.** He was so busy doing his act of kindness that he failed to leave us his autograph.

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<sup>2</sup> Warren Wiersbe

- b) Yet, I'm sure there's one place where his name is not forgotten (*lamb's book of life*).
- c) Jesus I'm sure was able to say to him later, *I was thirsty & you gave me a drink!*

F. Let's look at the Hyssop branch - Jn.19:28 *...so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.*

1. In Ex.12:22 a hyssop branch was used by Jews to smear the blood of their Passover lamb over their doorposts. This would deter the angel of destruction from taking their firstborn.
2. This is symbolic of Jesus' role as *the Passover Lamb*: God will pass over people's sins because *Jesus' blood is present*. As a sacrifice, He carried the weight of their sins in His death.

## VII. Slide 14a I THIRST, SHOWS JESUS CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR SUFFERING

A. We are born thirsty creatures (ask any new mom).

1. And, we are born *w/a spiritual thirst built into our souls*.
2. But instead we try *material things*: we shop, we buy, we hoard...*still thirsty*.
3. Many try *illicit relationships*: they indulge their bodies in many lusts...*still thirsty*.
4. Some try *success*: but *still their mouth is dry*.
  - a) These are all watering holes that give an illusion of nourishment...*but* it is stagnant water, full of pollution. *Broken cisterns that lure the unsuspecting*.
  - b) *And all of these things become like saltwater*. They look like they'll refresh us, *but* they leave us *even thirstier* than we were before.

B. We thirst for so many things. Wealth. We can crave to be liked. We crave pleasure. We thirst for what is novel because of the aching void in our soul. Because we're unsatisfied. Yet we must know, whoever drinks of this water will thirst again.

C. We thirst when we've *been deprived of something* that we are convinced we *can't do without*. *I can't go on without my spouse. How can I go forward when I've been robbed of the money that was rightfully mine? I didn't get the healthcare I deserve.*

D. It doesn't take much for us to have our fellowship with God interrupted. *An unpleasant phone call, the need to skip a meal, physical pain, all of these can make us question whether God has forsaken us.*

1. **Slide14b** Heb.4:15,16 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to **sympathize** with our weaknesses, but one who **in every respect** has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

a) This is proof that Jesus was not aloof from the common suffering of humanity. He has entered into our world and participated in our suffering. *He walked our planet, ate our food, drink our water, and felt our pain.*

b) Jesus knows our feelings. He knows our temptations. He was hungry and sleepy and tired. He knows what we feel like when our alarm goes off. He knows what we feel like when a friend won't receive our help. *He pioneered our salvation through the world that you when I face daily.* Our Master new what it meant to be *a crucified carpenter who got thirsty.*

## VIII.Slide15a **JESUS WAS THIRSTING SO WE WOULD NOT THIRST**

A. Are you in **physical pain**? Remember His burning thirst.

B. Has your **dignity** been assaulted? He was crucified naked.

C. Do you feel like you're in **darkness**? So was He.

D. Do you feel **forsaken**? He was forsaken by the Father.

E. **Slide15b** Christ Still Thirsts...*For the **love and devotion** of his own. For **fellowship** with his blood bought people. To **commune** with us. Who would have thought that my communion was blessed to Christ. **Yet it is.** **Grace** enables us to offer that which **refreshes him.** A.W.Pink*