

“I am Thirsty”

(Series: CrossWords; Message Five)

John 19:28-29

A. We're indebted to the Gospel writers for these stories of Jesus' humanity

THE FIRST OFFERS

A. Jesus was offered something to drink just before he was crucified

“Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means place of the skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh but he did not take it” (Mark 15:22-23)

1. Jesus, upon tasting it, refused to drink it
2. Jesus intentionally chose to suffer - underscoring the cost of our redemption
“If you would be my disciples, you must deny yourself, and take up your cross, and follow me” (cf. Matthew 16:24)

B. In Luke 23:36-37, there appears to be a second “offer” of something to drink

1. This “offer” is simply part of the soldier's mockery
2. Jesus likely never had a sip; it was probably held just out of his reach

C. A third offer is found here in Matthew and Mark after Jesus cried out

1. Someone near the cross ran, got a stick, put a sponge on it, dipped it in sour wine and offered it to Jesus
2. Neither Matthew nor Mark indicate that Jesus drank from the sponge

THE FIFTH WORD

A. Now, in the midst of the darkness, Jesus cries out, “I thirst!”

1. These are words of humanity in the midst of divinity
2. John writes the “*Word became flesh*” and lived among us as a human being

B. John wants us to remember Jesus was fully human (and fully divine)

1. He was the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and the Word of Life
2. But he also had to be like us so we can have eternal life

“Why must he be truly human and truly righteous? God's justice demands it: man has sinned, man must pay for his sin, but a sinner can not pay for others” (H.C. Q/A 16)

“He shared in our humanity so that by his death he might break the power of death...”
(Hebrews 2:14)

THE FINAL DRINK

A. 19:28a - “*Later, knowing that everything had now been finished...*”

1. Jesus knows the “Church” he just formed (20:19-29) will keep the faith, pass it on, write it down and start the world-wide missionary Church

2. The Church is the first and most fundamental of Jesus great “finishes”

B. 19:28b - Fulfilling Holy Scripture is *now* the second *finish* of the “hour”

1. It's improbable that Jesus said “*I am thirsty*” simply to fulfill Scripture
2. The text for Jesus' Scripture-fulfilling cry is likely Psalm 22

“My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death” (Psalm 22:15)

“For my thirst they gave me [wine] vinegar to drink” (Psalm 69:22b)

“...future generations will proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying he has done [finished] it.” (Psalm 22:31)

3. Isaiah 53 highlights the exaltation, degradation, and substitutionary nature of the Suffering Servant for the whole (sinful) world

“See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up and shall be very high” (Isaiah 52:13)

“He poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:12)

C. 19:29 - John notes the “stick” has actually a “hyssop branch”

1. The blood of the Passover Lamb was to be spread on the doorposts with a branch of hyssop so the angel of death would Pass-over
 - a. Only John refers to Jesus as the “Lamb of God”
 - b. Only John reminds us Jesus' crucifixion takes place while Passover Lambs are being slaughtered in the Temple
2. The “wine” reminds us of the Holy Communion in the Church

D. James and John once asked Jesus if they could sit at his right and left hand

1. Jesus asked if they could drink the cup he had to drink (Matthew 20:22)

“Put your sword back...am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?” (John 18:11)

2. “Drinking the cup” is Jesus' metaphor for enduring the suffering of the cross
3. When Jesus said, “*I thirst*” many heard; but only one went to get him a drink

“Jesus said, ‘When you have done it for one the least of my brothers or sisters, you have done it for me.’” (Matthew 25:40)

4. We still have an opportunity; do we have the courage?