

## The Final Words of Jesus – I Thirst - John 19:28-29

- **“Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.” – Luke 23:34**
- **“Today you will be with me in paradise” – Luke 23:43**
- **“Behold your son... Behold your mother!” – John 19:26-27**
- **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” – Matthew 27:46**
- **“I thirst” – John 19:28** Does it seem strange that there is a sermon here?

Isn't this statement just John recording what he heard Jesus say... or does this statement possibly have greater meaning behind it? **Yes!**

Jesus was thirsty! Wouldn't you be? **Jesus carried a cross at least 600 meters (1/3 of a mile)...** He was then nailed to that cross... He has been hanging there for hours at this point... This takes place in a desert climate...

Of course, he was thirsty... but that was not the only reason Jesus spoke these words! **John's gospel rarely includes statements, or events, that do not have a deeper significance & meaning beyond what's on the surface!**

Let's look closer at these 2 verses & the details surrounding this short phrase **“Jesus, knowing that all was now finished...”** What did he mean by that?

Jesus had finally satisfied God's law and justice in **His flesh on the cross!**

- His full divinity provided a **worthy sacrifice** for sin!
- His full humanity **paid the penalty of sin in the flesh!**

But some struggle to believe that this was truly what was happening... *How can God become man? How can man (matter) embody God? How can God die? How can sin & suffering overcome God? How can this act save all?*

Jesus' divinity had not yet fully been revealed, but it would be in 3 days. But his full humanity comes clearly into focus in these last two words... “I thirst!”

What is as human as acknowledging one of our most basic human needs... **the need for water?** Jesus thirst just like the rest of us! This detail, which can seem meaningless, and is easily overlooked, is incredibly important!

These 2 simple words answer some of the greatest questions of the faith, & defend against some of the greatest deception/false teaching in the church!

- **Jesus was truly human**... his suffering & this evil was not just an illusion!
- Jesus was not removed from his body before he suffered on the cross!
- **Jesus, the God-man, went all the way to the finish line... to death!**

These 2 words revealed a vital part of Jesus' true identity as human! But these words also serve another purpose.

**“To fulfill the Scriptures...”** Jesus was so keenly aware of what was taking place that his final words were fulfillments of Old Testament prophecy!

**Psalm 69:21b – “and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.”**

**“I thirst”** was a fulfillment of what was foretold about the Messiah long ago! And only John's gospel catches this detail! **This was actually the third time he was offered a drink that day, but the only time he declared these words:**

- **Mark 15:22-23** – Wine mixed with myrrh... but he did not take it!
- **Luke 23:36-37** – A drink of mockery... but he did not receive it!
- **John 19:28-29** – Offered in response to Jesus' words... This time received!

This is significant, not just because of its prophetic value, but also because of what this drink provided... **This drink did not help him escape the pain... It did not provide an easy way out... This drink prolonged his suffering!**

**“So they put a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch & held it to his mouth.”** Is there anything left to glean from these words/this verse?

Sour wine was common wine, reserved for common use. Similar to the wine **Jesus used at the Last Supper** (common elements, but filled w/ special meaning).

This moment on the cross was the fulfillment of that previous moment with his disciples. And if the wine wasn't enough to make that connection, **then consider the hyssop branch...** Where in Scripture do we see this branch?

**In the very event that the Last Supper celebrates... Passover!** God's people used hyssop branches to paint the blood of the lamb over their doorways to spare their lives. And here, it is **the blood of the Lamb of God being spread upon on the cross, which would become the doorway to heaven!**

These 2 words **“I thirst”**... the man... the wine... the branch... All of it, Jesus wanted us to see the immeasurable significance of this moment on the cross

**He also wants us today to thirst for that which eternally satisfies!** Jesus is the only one who can satisfy our eternal thirst.

**John 4:10 – “If you knew who you were talking to, you would ask of me and I would give you living water and you would never thirst again.”**

Do you thirst, & have not been quenched? What Jesus did on that cross is what provides us with **“living water”** so that we never thirst again!

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