

## LENT SERIES

7 Sayings of Jesus (5 or 7)

*"I Thirst."*

**John 19:28-29**

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One of the great challenges in studying the Bible is to read it in context. We have to work hard to try to find the original *content* and *intent* of a passage or phrase. We live in a man-centered world where even our Bible stories have man as the main character and God as the best supporting actor. The stories of Joseph in Egypt or David and Goliath or Nehemiah building the wall become mainly stories to show us something about us and not about God.

Well, today we come to the 5th of Jesus' sayings on the cross. It is a simple one. It is a hard one.

Two words: **"I THIRST."**

And we must not rush to try to squeeze something interesting out of those 2 words.

Of course, we want to ask the question this morning, Why did John (inspired by the Holy Spirit to write) include this phrase from the lips of Jesus?"

Matthew, Mark and Luke don't include it. John does.

God wants us to see something here and I believe what he wants us to see is **GLORY! MAJESTY! POWER! AUTHORITY!**

In order to really understand the Bible, we have to read what comes before a verse like "I thirst." And we have to read what comes after it.

John knows his Bible well and he wants us to see some connections.

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In chapter 19 John sees **6** Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah fulfilled. You might want to underline these in your Bible.

- **1.** In verse 24: "This was to fulfill the Scripture".  
**Psalm 22:18** "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they casts lots."
- **2.** In verses 28-29: "After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." "A jar 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. When Jesus received the sour wine...." **Psalm 69:21** "for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink."

- **3.** John also uses the word *hyssop* to describe the branch used to give Jesus the drink. He is seeing something here.  
It's like the hyssop used to spread the blood on the doorposts in **Exodus 12:22**, "Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin."
- **4.** In verse 31: "Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath" Huh? Why? Turn to **Deuteronomy 21:22**, "And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God."
- **5.** In verse 33: "But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs." Now look in verse 36. It says, "For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken."  
**Exodus 12:46** (speaking of the Passover lamb) "You shall not break any of its bones." Also **Numbers 9:12** & **Psalms 34:20**.
- **6.** In verse 34: "But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water." Now look in verse 37, "And again another

Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.” **Zechariah 12:10**, “I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.”

So, in this one chapter 19...at Christ’s crucifixion John sees the LAW, the PSALMS and the PROPHETS being fulfilled as the Passover lamb....the Lamb of God is being slain for the sins of men.

Jesus didn’t die by chance. He didn’t get caught up in a wicked game. He wasn’t at the wrong place at the wrong time. He fulfilled the scriptures!

**I Corinthians 15:3-** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Now, let’s go back to our verse. I told you that God wants us to see GLORY, MAJESTY, POWER & AUTHORITY here.

Look at verses 28-30 again.

28 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 received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

So, it looks like Jesus' payment for sin has come to its completion. There is one scripture that needs to be fulfilled. **Psalm 69:21, "for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink."**

What's marvelous about this passage is this:

The scripture is fulfilled by an unnamed person giving him sour wine to drink.

Jesus doesn't fulfill Scripture by **responding** to a person giving him sour wine. They didn't offer him this vinegar **FIRST** and then he thought to himself, "I should say "I thirst" now....so that scripture will be fulfilled.

No, his two words are a cue!

**"CUE THE FULFILLMENT!"** He said it and into someone's heart and mind at that moment came the desire to reach for the sponge and dip it and put in on a branch and stick it to his mouth.

Do you see the order?

He makes it happen. He initiates. He doesn't respond!

Turn to **John 19:10-11**. I think these are the key verses of the chapter.

**10 So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you? 11 Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.”**

He has authority. The Scriptures have authority. They are fulfilled at his will.

In closing, **I’d like to mention that this isn’t the first time that Jesus was thirsty.** He was also thirsty in John 4.

5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.  
6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)  
9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” 11 The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob?”

He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” 13 Jesus said to her,

**“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”**

There is a type of thirst that we have that Jesus doesn't have.

Our **souls** are thirsty. Thirsty for meaning. Justice. Forgiveness. Peace. Salvation. Truth. Glory.

Jesus says that there is something to satisfy. What is it? Money? Power? Fame? Comfort?

**John 6: 35** Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

**John 7: 37** On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

**Revelation 21:6** And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.