

The Fifth Saying: Confession

John 19:28-29

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" ²⁹Now a vessel of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth" (John 19:28-29).

I. "I thirst" reveals the nature of our Savior.

Christ is unique among men. He is the God-man; fully God and fully man; both God and man.

A. His words reveal His humanity.

Jesus Christ experienced hunger (Matt. 4:2), happiness (John 15:11), and even sorrow (Matt. 26:38). On the cross He experienced both pain of the soul and pain of the body. *"All my bones are out of joint, my heart is like wax, my strength is dried up like a potsherd, my tongue cleaves to my jaw, thou hast brought me into the dust of death"* (Ps. 22:14-15). Jesus Christ died, cursed by God the Father, on behalf of those whom the Father loved.

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, 'Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree'" (Galatians 3:13).

B. His words reveal His deity.

"...knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled (Jesus saith, 'I thirst.' " *"In my thirst they gave me vinegar"* (Ps. 69:21). What does the Bible say about the Messiah? **Psalm 41:9** – he would be betrayed by a familiar friend. **Ps. 31:11** – the disciples would forsake him. **Ps. 35:11** – he would face false accusations. **Isaiah 53:7** – the Messiah would be silent before his accusers. **Is. 53:9** – he would be pronounced innocent. **Ps. 22** – he would suffer death by crucifixion. **Ps. 109:25** – the spectators would mock. **Ps. 22:18** – lots would be cast for his garments. **Is. 53:12** – he would pray for his enemies. **Ps. 22:7-8** – he would be forsaken of God. **Ps. 34:20** – no bones would be broken. **Is. 53:9** – he would be buried in a rich man's tomb. These are just some prophecies about his crucifixion – not his birth, ministry, miracles, resurrection, **there are over 500 prophecies**. Christ is who He says! You must deem Him a liar, a lunatic, or LORD.

II. "I thirst" reveals the need of every sinner.

Remember the context. *"Eli, Eli, Lama sabachthani,"* (Matthew 27: 46). God's presence is gone.

Whether he articulates it or not, the natural man the world over is crying – *"I thirst."* How is that thirst filled? Some seek after possessions, others pleasure, others power (I John 2:16). Jesus said to the woman at the well, *"Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst."* If you die separated from Jesus Christ, you will eternally cry "I thirst."

III. "I thirst" reveals the necessity of every saint.

Have you ever asked why He said, *"I thirst"*? Was it because he was thirsty? Jesus said *"I thirst"* in order **"that the Scriptures might be fulfilled."** He did not ask to satisfy himself. He did not ask to quench his thirst. He did not ask to receive. He asked in order to be obedient. The Psalmist said that vinegar would be given. When Jesus said, "I thirst," He knew what He would be given. Have you drunk vinegar? *"I have learned in whatever state I am, therewith to be content"* (Philippians 4:11).

Christ has not called me to a life of comfort and ease but of commitment and obedience.

A. The delight of obedience is sometimes postponed – like the training of an Olympian.

B. Obedience will always produce a future delight.

Mark it down. Obedience to God will always bring future delight (Matthew 5:10-12).

C. The child of God will *always*, by grace, be brought to the point of obedience.