

Saying: No 5

Scripture: John 19 v 28

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst".

The RSV says *After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst."*

'I thirst' is the fifth saying of Jesus from the cross. During this series of messages on the sayings of Jesus from the cross the emphasis has been about what Jesus did for others; in this saying Jesus wants something for Himself.

As we consider this expression of Jesus I want us to observe the accuracy of scripture in relation to Him. However prior to this it will be good for us to look at the first two words of verse 28, which are **'After this'** and see the importance of them. These words follow something that had just taken place, and that another event was expected. Whenever we read these words, it is assumed that something is going to follow.

For instance, Peter James and John went with Him into the garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed the words that **Matthew 26 v 39** records *He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."* After this He was betrayed by Judas and arrested, after this He was beat up and ridiculed, jeered at, mocked, scorned, derided, and, put down. After this He was rejected and a murderer released in preference to Him. After this He was nailed to the cross lifted up to be in a vertical position and left there until he died.

The words **'After this'** occurs in all our lives. After this talk something else will take place in our service. After this church service we will go home and have lunch. After lunch we will do something else.

In relation to these words notice just prior to Jesus expressing them it tells us in **John 19 v 26 & 27** the following. *When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.*

It was after this that Jesus said, **'I Thirst'**. Let's look at these words a little more because they can be attached to so much in relation to the events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst".

The NIV says, *Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."*

In 'The Greatest Book on Dispensational Truth in the World' by Clarence Larkin he says that there is a law known as the 'Law of Compound Probabilities'. It works like this. If I were to predict an earthquake in Philadelphia next year the chance of it happening would be 1 in 2. If I were to add another prediction and say it would be on the 4th of July the odds are increased to 1 in 4. If I had another and say it would happen at midday, the chance of it happening decreases. He states that there were 25 specific predictions made by the Old Testament Prophets referring to the betrayal, trial, death, and burial of Jesus. According to this Law of Compound probabilities there was only 1 chance in 33.554.432 of these prophecies being fulfilled in a 24 hour period and yet we know they were.

History has confirmed the accuracy of O.T. Prophecy because what was Prophecy to them has become History to us.

*Listen to what **1Peter 1 v 10 & 11** says, concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.*

Up to this point in time all that had been predicted about the work Jesus would do on the earth had now been completed. The verse tells us that Jesus being aware of this, has one final thing to do, which could only be done from the cross so that the scripture would be fulfilled. It was to express the words '***I Thirst***'.

Psalms 69 v 21, *They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.*

William Burkitt's says Our Saviour finding that all was accomplished, which he was to do before his death, except only the fulfilling of one scripture the one in Ps 69 v 21 where it says 'They gave me vinegar to drink'. To accomplish the scripture He said '***I thirst***'..

There comes into the picture here another '**After this**', because following these words 'I Thirst' Jesus is given a drink, verse 29 says, *A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth.*

When Jesus cried out, I thirst, it was to show, that whatever was foretold by the prophets concerning him, was accomplished exactly.

It is true to say that Christ died according to the scriptures. Everything written concerning the way Jesus was to suffer and die was fulfilled. This necessitated Jesus undertaking certain things. For scripture to be fulfilled He had to do the following six things.

1. Surrender His will. Not my will but thy will be done
2. Suffer at the hands of sinful men. *Spit upon Him and blindfolded Him*
3. Sacrifice Him by laying down His life. *No man takes it from me I lay it down of myself.*
4. Strip principalities and powers of their authority. *Having spoiled principalities and powers.*
5. Succeed in making atonement for the whole of mankind. But this man after *He offered one sacrifice for sin sat down on the right hand of God.*
6. Satisfy the just demands of God by bearing our sin in His body on the cross. *Who His own self bare our sins in His body on the tree.*

Let me ask one final thing at the end of this message.

What is going to happen to you '**After this life is over?**'

When you have drawn your last breath, what will happen '**After this?**' **Luke 16 vs 19 to 22**

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried

It is interesting to note what transpired '**After this**'. This is what the rich man experienced.

Verse 23 to 31