

Fifth Word: The Significance of the Insignificant

Brief moments in time with small things can make a large impact in a person's life. Matthew 10:42, *"And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."*

Likewise, the fifth word Jesus spoke from the cross may not look big and significant at first glance, but it was big and it was significant.

It was just one single word in the Greek language: *dipsao*; two words when translated to English: "I thirst." John 19:28-29

"After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." 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."

What does it say about our Savior that it's not until six hours into the crucifixion that He then expresses His own need?

Jesus, the God-Man, challenges us to live a transformed life, becoming more like Him when in our suffering, we help to meet the needs of others first while we wait patiently for our own needs to be met. Philippians 2:3-5.

Jesus didn't play the "God-card" at Calvary. He didn't avoid the pain and physical suffering on the cross. Instead, God in a human body got thirsty, just like we get thirsty at times. Hebrews 4:15

Jesus is both God and man. That means Jesus is both divine and human which cannot be separated. On the cross, Jesus remained who He was.

We must never lose sight of this fact, because some people suggest Jesus did not feel the full pain of the crucifixion when He was on the cross. Some suggest Jesus let His human part slip away in the moment as He went into full divinity mode.

Folks, that is not true. Jesus felt every aspect of the cross. He experienced it all. Philippians 2:5-8

From a physical standpoint, thirst was one of the most excruciating parts of a crucifixion. The crucifixion process caused a person to become dehydrated to the extreme due to the loss of blood and bodily fluids through the perspiration that took place. When Jesus said, "I'm thirsty," it was the truth. His mouth and throat were parched. He didn't play the divinity card to opt out of the pain and thirst. Instead, Jesus became obedient to death, even death on a cross while He remained both fully God and fully man.

It is encouraging that we serve a God who gets thirsty sometimes just like we get thirsty. Jesus can relate to our physical pain. At the same time, it also is encouraging to remember that Jesus offers the solution to our thirsty lives. Part of the nature and character of Jesus is that He is the thirst-quenching God. John 7:37-38

Jesus is the great thirst quencher for all who are thirsty their hearts and souls. When was the last time you took a deep drink of Jesus?

Look again at verse 28 *"After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."*

"After this..." After what? After His work of drinking from the cup of God's wrath, that is bearing the sins of His people, was done. He worked hard and he was thirsty. And to make sure that all prophecy concerning Him was fulfilled, He proclaimed, "I'm thirsty." Psalm 22:15: psalm 69:15

Look back at Psalm 69:2. *“They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst, **they gave me sour wine to drink.**”*

Remember what the Roman soldiers gave Jesus to drink at the cross when he said, “I’m thirsty.” They gave Him sour wine.

This sour wine is different from the wine He was also offered mentioned in Mark 15:23, *“And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.”*

These are two different kinds of wine. The wine mixed with myrrh that Jesus refused was a pain killer that helped deaden the pain when people were being nailed to the cross. Jesus was offered this before He was nailed to the cross, but he refused that drink because He wanted to experience the full pain from the cup of wrath He was about to drink. However, Jesus took the sour wine because it was a thirst quencher. The reason that the Roman soldiers were quick to give sour wine to those being crucified is that it delayed the dying process and caused people to suffer longer.

Notice a small detail concerning what was used to give Jesus a drink. A hyssop branch

What’s the big deal about a hyssop branch?

In 1 Kings 4 King Solomon compares the cedars of Lebanon and hyssop.

Cedar trees in Lebanon are big and magnificent. Hyssop that grows out of the walls in Jerusalem is small and seemingly insignificant.

In Exodus 12 hyssop was used to spread the blood of the Passover Lamb on the doorposts of the Israelites so that death would pass over those inside. At the cross, hyssop was used to give the Passover Lamb a drink so that He could clear His throat and soon declare: “IT IS FINISHED!”

A hyssop bush is something as seemingly insignificant as a Dixie Cup in the bedtime routine of life; yet, both have a huge part in God’s story.

Jesus has a special place in His heart and the story He is writing for even the Dixie Cup amount of faith. In God’s Story, what seems small and insignificant at first glance may become hugely significant in the end. Your little Dixie Cup kind of life may be like hyssop in the hands of God. It may have huge ramifications in the story God is writing.