

Lenten Series: “Live Like Jesus Is Dying.” “Jesus’ Sayings from the Cross”

Sermon #5: “I Thirst”

Scriptures: John 19:28-29

28 After this, knowing that everything was already completed, in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” 29 A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips.

Source: Rev. Adam Hamilton at the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, MO

<http://www.cor.org/worship/sermon-archives/show/sermons/I-Thirst/>

Opening Video Clip

PP#1: *Image of Jesus teaching Nicodemus.*

[*Monolog starts...*]

He came to Jerusalem, Jesus of Nazareth. I had heard of Him for some time. He had been ministering in the North, around Galilee—some wouldn’t say ministering, some of my colleagues would say meddling!—around Galilee. So, when He came to Jerusalem, I was curious and went to go see Him. I wanted to know more about the man that some claimed might be the Messiah. The Messiah? I mean, He was from Nazareth of all places. Surely He couldn’t be the Messiah!

But, some had said that He had worked miracles, that He had opened the eyes of the blind, that He had opened the ears of the deaf, that He had touched the lepers. So, I was curious. As He preached, He preached with such power and conviction that I was stunned. And I was intrigued. Others began to critique and pick apart every single thing He would say. But I tried to listen, and I felt myself drawn to this man. I wanted to know more.

Now, I couldn’t dare schedule a meeting with Him during the daytime. My colleagues in the Sanhedrin would have laughed me out of the assembly, and I would have no hope of having any respect from them after that. So, I called a friend, who had a friend, who knew one of Jesus’ disciples named John, and I asked, “Is it possible that I could meet with your teacher?” It was set up.

We met under the cover of darkness. When we sat down, He looked at me...He looked through me. He said, “Nicodemus, you must be born anew. You must be born not just of water, but of Spirit. You must be born from above.”

I’ll admit, I was a bit confused by what He had just said. I didn’t fully understand. I continued to talk with Him, and I found myself mysteriously drawn toward this man. I was intrigued. I mean, He had no formal education—He was the son of a carpenter of all things—and yet here He was teaching me, an educated scholar of the faith. But I wanted to know more.

He left and went back up north. But I kept hearing snippets about Him, that He was calling my colleagues hypocrites. Ha! He was right at least some of the time! But He was dismissing the traditions that were so important to us, throwing away what kept us close to God. Many became angry and resentful. And so, when He came back to Jerusalem, I decided to see Him again. He had come to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.

PP#2: *Jesus teaching in Jerusalem* “Come to me all you who are thirsty, and I will give you drink.”

And at the end of the Festival of Tabernacles, He stood and said loudly to all the people, “Come to me all you who are thirsty, and I will give you drink. Drink of me and you’ll find rivers of living water flowing from your innermost being.” I found that to be exciting, and yet confusing.