



## WORDS FIVE AND SIX

Continuing from the past weeks, we have the fifth and sixth words from the cross.

### *I thirst*

(John 19:28)

The fifth statement is short. Jesus thirsted. As with the previous statement, this statement comes from a Psalm. *Draw near to my soul, and redeem it; Deliver me because of my enemies. You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; My adversaries are all before You. Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none. They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.* Psalm 69:18-21

It is interesting that this statement is found in John's Gospel. His Gospel is filled with thirsty people. The woman of Samaria: *Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."* John 4:13-14

*And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."* John 6:35

*On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."* John 7:37

The complete passage reads, *After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" Now a vessel full 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

Jesus, the source of living water, was dried up. He was cut off from the Father, there was no power left in Him - for the time being.



*Father, into Thy hands I commend My Spirit.* (Luke 23:46)

With His work all but complete, all but his pending death, Jesus "commends" His spirit to the Father's hands. Following this, Luke adds, *"Having said this, He breathed His last.*

You have all been following Betty Ruth Long's battle with cancer. For months she longed to go be with her Heavenly Father which would be "far better" (Philippians 1:23). For weeks she remained because we all have our old nature which is strongly opposed to dying. As much as we would like to go to our new home in heaven, our old nature says "stay!"

Christ had no old nature. When His work on the cross was complete, there was no need for Him to suffer any longer, he simply "commended" His spirit to the Father and *"breathed His last."* We will see this fact reiterated next week with the seventh word as recorded by Matthew.

When you consider how easy it was for Jesus to commend His spirit to the Father and die, it makes His work on the cross all the more awesome. Instead of crying out "I thirst," He could simply have died, but, so 'that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"' (John 19:28). Instead of hanging there and crying out *"Why hast thou forsaken me?"* He could have given up His spirit and went to be with His Father. He had the power to do that, but not the will. Earlier, Jesus had said, *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."* John 6:38

This seems an appropriate time to ask, "Have you commended your spirit into the hands of the Father?" Have you accepted the work that Christ did on the cross for you so, someday, when you *"breath your last"* you will be with the Lord in Paradise? If you have not, why not speak with one of the Pastors or Elders this morning?

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