

Devotions with Matt

April 8, 2020

This devotion was written by a group of fellow students and me a few years back as we reflected on the 7 Statements of Christ on the Cross. May they be an encouragement to you as we approach Good Friday.

THIRST

Prayer of Preparation

Heavenly Father,

I offer you my life today. Help me to slow down and listen to You. Please speak into my very being whatever you want me to hear today and transform me more into your likeness from our time spent together. Help me to be obedient to follow through with whatever you ask of me.

Amen

Statement from the Cross #5

Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ~ John 19:28

Thoughts of a Fellow Sojourner

There is no question that Jesus experienced extreme thirst while being crucified. Even through what he endured before his crucifixion, he would have lost a substantial quantity of bodily fluid, both blood and sweat. Therefore, his statement, "I am thirsty" was, on the most basic level, a request for something to drink. In response, the soldiers gave him "sour wine" which was a cheap beverage common among lower class people in the time of Jesus. As he suffered, Jesus personified the pain of the people of Israel, which had been captured in Psalm 69:20-21. "Their insults have broken my heart, and I am in despair. If only one person would show some pity; if only one would turn and comfort me. But instead, they give me poison for food; they offer me sour wine for my thirst." Jesus was suffering for the sin of Israel, even as he was taking upon himself the sin of the world.

As I reflect on Jesus' statement, "I am thirsty," I keep thinking of my own thirst. However, it's not like the physical thirst of Jesus. Rather, I am thirsty for him. I think of his conversation with the woman at the well in John 4 and I realize that my soul yearns for the living water of Jesus. While it pains my heart deeply that he had to go through the crucifixion, I rejoice in the fact that he suffered physical thirst on the cross — and so much more — so that my thirst for the water of life might be quenched once and for all.

Moment of Reflection

Take some time in silence for reflection and listen to what God wants to speak into you today.

In Christ,

Fellow Sojourners

