

PP1 Good Friday

PP2 John 19:28-38 (NIV2011)

28

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

This verse is fabulous. It gives us a full picture. The picture that Jesus had the understanding of God's plan. That He had accomplished what was necessary. That the plan was done. And by the way, I'm thirsty. Shows us that There is not only God's big picture here but the intimate reality of life. Thirst is a very earthy thing. Thirst is a very human thing. This crucifixion was killing Jesus who was both God and man. It is a reminder for us of God's plan and that was to send Himself as the sacrifice.

PP3 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The idea of the wine was not only a thirst quencher, actually the vinegar would not have quenched much thirst, it was more of a punishment, you try drinking vinegar when you are thirsty, it just makes it worse. Anyway, the alcohol would have been a bit of a pain duller, but hey, not much, particularly not enough when it is sucked from a sponge!!

Notice in v 30. Jesus declares it is finished. It's done. Job accomplished. Jesus had achieved what He set out to do. John tells us He gave up His spirit. He died. This is a narrative recording of what happened. John is saying – He died, I saw it. It really happened. And this narrative was important / is important. From very early on, people questioned if Jesus died. John is giving an eye witness account.

PP4 31 Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.

32 The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other.

33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

Jesus was dead. Let's be realistic, the Romans soldiers knew death, he saw it daily, inflicted it regularly and knew how to recognise it. Again, John's narrative is confirming the death certificate if you like.

A couple of things important here. Only by Christ's death was the salvation made possible for humanity. That is why it is so stressed here. John wants you to know it really happened.

Also there is so much in this passage that was prophesied. This is one of them, written in that they pieced his side rather than broke His legs.

Here are a number of prophecy's regarding Jesus that are noted to have been fulfilled during his life.

PP5

	Prophecy	Fulfillment
1. Place of Birth	Mc 5:2	Mt 2:1
2. Herod's massacre	Jr 31:15	Mt 2:16
3. John the Baptist	Isa 40:3	Mt 3:1-2
4. Riding on a donkey	Zch 9:9	Lk 19:35-37
5. The resurrection	Ps 16:10	Ac 2:31
6. 30 pieces of silver	Zch 11:12	Mt 26:15
7. Body pierced	Zch 12:10	Jn 19:34
8. Garments distributed	Ps 22:18	Jn 19:23-24

PP6³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

Now this verse shows us John is very deliberate in his testimony.

John wants people to know the credibility in the story. That is why he writes the gospel, as an eye witness. At the time, there was probably the books of Mark, Matthew and Luke, but John uses his special relationship with Jesus to show the credibility of the story. Why? Because there were heaps of alternative versions coming out.

Things like the Gospel of Thomas, although it is probably a couple of centuries later, and was it written by Thomas, I doubt it, (That by the way is a joke!!) different groups of people were trying to change the story, change the message and make it compatible with their views or take over the church. John is rejecting that and also predicting that it will be an on going issue for the church. In the coming years from the point of John's writing, the Gnostics were coming out with numerous versions of the story. Like the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary, the Gospel of Phillip and the Gospel of Thomas, oh did I say that twice, that is because

there were about four of them! All these had different takes on the life of Jesus. Most of them took bits of the story and adjusted it to their belief structure.

What we have with the four Gospel included in scripture is four consistent, and comparative documents that support each others accounts. The other thing is most if not all of the alternative documents are written at a later time. We know this from Carbon dating of some documents, but also from writing styles of the greek used. Hey, they have been checked by scholars and found to be very wanting. This story of Jesus death has been questioned since it happened.

We can trust our scriptures. If you want to talk more about some of this stuff please feel free to come in for a chat.

Note what John says in v 36-37

^{PP7 36} These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,”

³⁷ and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”

These statements line up with these passages.

PP8 Psalm 34:20 (NIV2011)

²⁰ he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.

And specifically about the spear in the side.

PP9 Zechariah 12:10 (NIV2011)

¹⁰ “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn

⁵⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

John is verifying as an eye witness, probably late in his life. That it really happened. He backs it up with a second witness. Both Jewish and Roman law depended on two witnesses to verify an event. John backs himself up with a person of noted credibility. Joseph of Arimathea was well known, and highly respected.

^{PP10 38} Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away.

The christian faith is totally reliant on this historical event. Without Jesus death, there can be no resurrection, there can be no salvation there can be no faith. Today it is this death we celebrate and that is what we do, this is not a wake, this is a preemptive celebration. Because we know he story, we know what happens next.