

Fifth Phrase: "I Thirst"

SERVANTS' MEETING

3/22/15

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYZED MAN



Overview

- ▶ Compare Gospel versions
- ▶ Explain perceived discrepancies
- ▶ Significance of hyssop
- ▶ Why refuse and why accept?
- ▶ Contemplations



“I thirst!”

- ▶ Only mentioned by St. John:
- ▶ “After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I thirst!’“ (John 19:38)

Different Occasions and Versions

Matthew 27

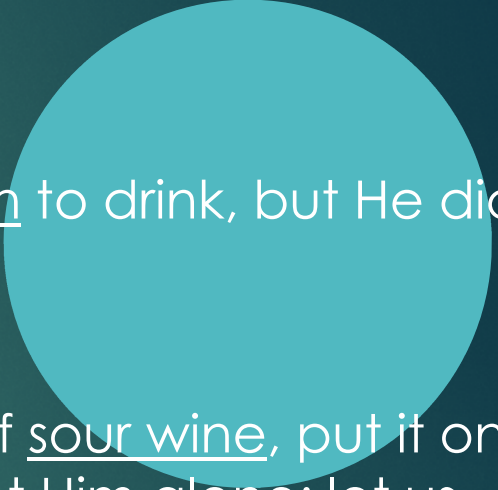
(first time):

- ▶ 33 And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull,
- ▶ 34 they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.

(second time):

- ▶ 47 Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!"
- ▶ 48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.
- ▶ 49 The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."
- ▶ 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit

Different Occasions and Versions



Mark 15

(first time):

- ▶ 23 Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it.

(second time):

- ▶ 36 Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink, saying, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down."
- ▶ 37 And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.

Different Occasions and Versions

Luke 23

(second time?):

- ▶ 35 And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."
- ▶ 36 The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine,
- ▶ 37 and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."
- ▶ 38 And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Different Occasions and Versions

John 19:

(second time):

- ▶ 29 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.
- ▶ 30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Difference between first and second times

- ▶ First time was before Crucifixion
- ▶ In order to sedate the condemned to make the soldiers' task easier
- ▶ **Matthew 27:**
 - ▶ 34 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.
 - ▶ 35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots...
- ▶ **Mark 15:**
 - ▶ 23 And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.
 - ▶ 24 And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments...
- ▶ Second time was just before the Lord breathed His last

Gall? Myrrh? Wine? Sour Wine? Vinegar?

Gall and Myrrh:

- ▶ Gall and myrrh may refer to the same thing: some bitter substance
- ▶ Gall may refer to some kind of intoxicant
- ▶ Myrrh may refer to an aromatic gum which was used to sweeten the smell and taste of various foods and was also used in embalming
- ▶ “They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.” (Psalm 69:21)
- ▶ “Give strong drink to him who is perishing...” (Proverbs 31:6)

Gall? Myrrh? Wine? Sour Wine? Vinegar?

Wine and Vinegar:

- ▶ St. Mark is the only evangelist who uses “wine” the first time it was offered to the Lord. It was not incorrect; just not as specific as “sour wine”
- ▶ When wine gets old, it sours and turns into a kind of vinegar. The KJV uses the word “vinegar” instead of “sour wine” to describe what was offered to the Lord the second time in both Matthew and Mark

Significance of Hyssop

- ▶ St. Matthew and St. Mark just indicate “a reed”
- ▶ St. Luke does not mention anything
- ▶ St. John indicates “put it on hyssop”
- ▶ “Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean” (Psalm 50:7)
- ▶ Passover



Why did the Lord refuse the first time, but not the second?

- ▶ First time, it was offered with an intoxicant to lessen the pain and, perhaps, make things easier for the soldiers
- ▶ The Lord wanted to feel the full extent of the pain, to be fully alert, and to fully drink the cup of the wrath of God for our sakes
- ▶ His work as a Priest
- ▶ **Leviticus 10:8-9**
 - ▶ 8 Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying:
 - ▶ 9 "Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations..."

Why did the Lord refuse the first time, but not the second?

- ▶ Not only was He the priest offering the sacrifice, but he was the Lamb; not just the “Offerer”, but the “Offering”; not just the “Sacrificer”, but the “Sacrifice”
- ▶ John 10:
 - ▶ “I lay down My life that I may take it again” (verse 17)
 - ▶ “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.” (verse 18)
- ▶ Active obedience vs. Passive obedience
- ▶ Active obedience = pursuit, determination, Passion
- ▶ “A great mystery, beyond the minds of man, is the pursuit of our Savior, who came and did become the Son of Man.”
- ▶ Second time, no intoxicant; mission was complete; His Passion fulfilled

"I thirst!"



John 19:

- ▶ 28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"
- ▶ 29 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.
- ▶ 30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Humanity Revealed

HH Pope Shenouda:

- ▶ “By this declaration, He indicated that the hot iron began to be struck or that the fire had begun to consume the sacrifice... Divine Justice was being done, and His divinity refrained from alleviating the physical pain that His human body was suffering. His was pain in its absolute sense, pain that pleased the Father and made Him smell a soothing aroma...”
- ▶ One of the most common expressions
- ▶ A constant reminder to us of His love on the Cross

Humanity Revealed

“Believing this, let us tenderly feel how very near akin to us our Lord Jesus has become. You have been ill, and you have been parched with fever as he was, and then you too have gasped out “I thirst.” Your path runs hard by that of your Master. He said, “I thirst,” in order that one might bring him drink, even as you have wished to have a cooling draught handed to you when you could not help yourself. Can you help feeling how very near Jesus is to us when his lips must be moistened with a sponge, and he must be so dependent upon others as to ask drink from their hand? Next time your fevered lips murmur “I am very thirsty,” you may say to yourself, “Those are sacred words, for my Lord spoke in that fashion.”

--C.H. Spurgeon, 1878

Symbolism of the Sour Wine (Vinegar)

“Alas, my brethren, I cannot say much on the score of man's cruelty to our Lord without touching myself and you. Have we not often given Him vinegar to drink? Did we not do so years ago before we knew Him? We used to melt when we heard about His sufferings, but we did not turn from our sins. We gave Him our tears and then grieved Him with our sins. We thought sometimes that we loved Him as we heard the story of His death, but we did not change our lives for His sake, nor put our trust in Him, and so we gave Him vinegar to drink. Nor does the grief end here, for have not the best works we have ever done, and the best feelings we ever felt, and the best prayers we have ever offered, been tart and sour with sin?

Symbolism of the Sour Wine (Vinegar)

“Can they be compared to generous wine? are they not more like sharp vinegar? I wonder He has ever received them, as one marvels why He received this vinegar; and yet He has received them, and smiled upon us for presenting them. He knew once how to turn water into wine, and in matchless love He has often turned our sour drink-offerings into something sweet to Himself, though in themselves, methinks, they have been the juice of sour grapes, sharp enough to set His teeth on edge. We may therefore come before Him, with all the rest of our race, when God subdues them to repentance by His love, and look on Him whom we have pierced, and mourn for Him as one that is in bitterness for His firstborn. We may well remember our faults this day...”

--C.H. Spurgeon, 1878

Isaiah 5

- ▶ 1 Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill.
- ▶ 2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes.
- ▶ 3 "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard.
- ▶ 4 What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes?

How does the Lord give to others?

- ▶ Often asks something from us first or appears as if He is in need:
 - ▶ Isaiah
 - ▶ Samaritan Woman
 - ▶ Tithing

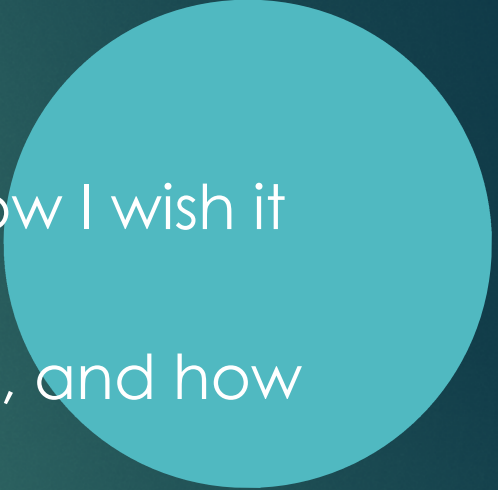
Cannot be all physical

- ▶ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” (John 4:34)
- ▶ Spiritual thirst for:
 - ▶ Our Passion
 - ▶ Our Hearts
 - ▶ Our Fellowship and Reliance

Our Passion



Luke 12:

- ▶ 49 “I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!
 - ▶ 50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!
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Our Hearts

- ▶ “My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways.” (Proverbs 23:26)
- ▶ Well-protected
 - ▶ “A garden enclosed Is my sister, my spouse, A spring shut up, A fountain sealed.” (Song 4:12)
- ▶ Consecrated
 - ▶ 8 Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying:
 - ▶ 9 “Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations,
 - ▶ 10 that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean (Lev 10:8-10)

Our Fellowship and Reliance

- ▶ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! **How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings**, but you were not willing!” (Matt 23:37)
- ▶ Matthew Henry:
 - ▶ “A hen gathering her chickens under her wings, is an apt emblem of the Saviour's tender love to those who trust in him, and his faithful care of them. He calls sinners to take refuge under his tender protection, keeps them safe, and nourishes them to eternal life.”

Review

- ▶ Compare Gospel versions
- ▶ Explain perceived discrepancies
- ▶ Significance of hyssop
- ▶ Why refuse and why accept?
- ▶ Contemplations
 - ▶ Humanity revealed
 - ▶ Symbolism of the Sour Wine (Vinegar)
 - ▶ How the Lord gives
 - ▶ Spiritual thirst: our passion, our heart, our fellowship and reliance

