



Walkerville Uniting Church

THE GRAPEVINE MARCH 29TH, 2020

Today's Message: **The Seven Last words from the Cross – Part 5**

SCRIPTURE READINGS: "I thirst" –John 19: 28

Today we examine the fifth of the 'Last words from the Cross' as part of our Lenten Study. What's interesting about this simple word is what it captures in so short a sentence. "I thirst." It is reminiscent of some of the famous shortest verse in the Bible, recorded in John's gospel, "Jesus wept." (John 11: 35). We could name many other instances where we find Jesus experiencing the feelings and needs so familiar to each of us. The scriptures talk of Jesus being tired, distressed, dismayed, joyful, jubilant and so much more. What does all this tell us?

Jesus is one of us. He lived an actual factual human life in an concrete historical place and time. He may not have lived the exact same life as you or me—obviously—but he has lived a life that rhymes with ours, in all its ups and downs. Jesus had to experience the ordinary grind of day-to-day life, the pitch and roll of human emotions and all the rhythms of normal human existence in order that he could become a full and authentic substitute for us. As the fourth century bishop, Gregory Nazianzus famously said "That which was not assumed is not healed; but that which is united to God is saved." By this, he meant that it was necessary for Jesus to assimilate every aspect of our humanity in order to reconfigure and restore what was lost. So, Jesus thirsted. When Jesus became human, it wasn't only with a view to the final six hours on the cross. The crucifixion was the finale of his complete and perfectly lived human life—the first perfect life ever lived. When a marathon runner triumphantly breaks the tape at the end of a race, it's not only that final stride that counts. That moment of triumph is dependent on *every* single step from start to finish. In the same way, every moment of Jesus' life, from two cells in the womb of Mary all the way to final breath on the cross, are vital links of an unbroken chain of faithfulness to the Father that are vital to the resurrection.

A community in Christ for all generations

There's no particle in all the possibility of humanity that Jesus has not penetrated and then permeated with his faithfulness to the Father. He has taken the light of his perfect connection to the Father into the darkest corners of our broken humanity to reconnect us to the Father. To do that he needed to walk right into the valley of death to rescue us. He entered our thirsty place so that we could enter the living waters. In faith

David Kowalick

What's happening this week



PRAYER GROUP 11.15am Wednesday. Join a zoom prayer meeting with Rev David or simply pray at home at the same time. **Contact David Kowalick for more information**



PLAYGROUP - watch together at 9.30am Thursdays

Playgroup is meeting online! Kylie has pre-recorded a session for parents to watch at home with their children. There are breaks for reading a story, eating fruit, playing with toys and you can sing along with Kylie! Find all the details in the Walkerville Facebook group and on YouTube.



mSg@5—Sunday April 5 via YouTube and activity packs.



You can now watch sermons, children's message and find suggested worship songs on our website, facebook page and our brand new YouTube channel. Godly Play will also be available (contact Kylie to access) and mSg@5 will be happening online as well!

Go direct to our YouTube channel and watch this on your smart TV or phone at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKwD-mOCwaMIWN-l6v4XvjQ?view>.

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