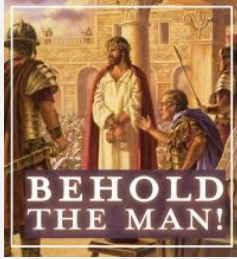


# A God Who Thirsts



Wednesday, April 10 at 11 & 7  
Sixth Wednesday of Lent – 2019

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Today we focus on Jesus being *a God who thirsts!* Jesus IS the Son of God, yet He is also a sinless Man – *our sinless substitute*, who ♦hungered, ♦prayed, ♦was beaten, ♦was exposed, and ♦has a mother.

Today we focus on a portion of [Psalm 22](#); then we will go to [John 19](#) when Jesus ♦was on the cross, ♦identified His thirst, and ♦made *the greatest announcement ever made!*

1. **A Prophecy Pointing to Jesus' Suffering:** The words of [Psalm 22](#) were written down by David, *about a thousand years before Jesus*; however, *they ultimately point to what Jesus endured for us and our salvation!* In order to better understand them now, think about Jesus being on the cross – how did He feel?

- a. <sup>12</sup> **Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;** <sup>13</sup> **they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.**  
// Bulls ♦are very large animals – *about 2,400 pounds*, and ♦can run fast – *about 25 MPH*. (The fastest man in the world, Usain Bolt ran almost 28 MPH;

how fast can you run?) Now imagine being surrounded by such animals, *and bulls of Bashan*, a place “famous for producing large bulls” (TLSB, 864). And then, like lions – that can completely consume a person’s ♦life, ♦skin, ♦bones, and ♦blood – the bulls were ready to attack. *Jesus endured all of that for us and our salvation!*

- b. <sup>14</sup> **I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;** <sup>15</sup> **my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.** // Jesus was physically suffering so much on the cross: †As water has no shape, *so Jesus’ body* – so beaten and abused – *felt like it no longer had the shape of a man!* †As hardened wax has a shape, *so soft wax is a liquid*; that is how Jesus felt on the inside, *like everything had melted!* †Because of Jesus’ lack of hydration and nourishment, *as well as being beaten within an inch of His life*, ♦His strength was gone, ♦His mouth was parched, and ♦He was as good as dead!
- c. Earlier the attackers were bulls; *now we compare them to wild dogs*: <sup>16</sup> **For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet--** <sup>17</sup> **I can count all my bones-- they stare and gloat over me;** <sup>18</sup> **they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.** // Even though dogs are much smaller than bulls, *they can attack quickly* – as I have discovered firsthand in my life, and they can easily break and rip the skin, as well as

eat a person! Jesus on the cross was being eaten, *in a sense*, by those who †nailed Him to His cross, †mocked Him, †stared at Him, †rejoiced over His suffering, †divided His clothes, and †cast lots for the tunic! When you add on ♦*the sins of the world* and ♦*His separation from God the Father*, then we can better understand Jesus' cry, **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"** (Matt. 27:46 ESV).

2. **Jesus' Final Moments on His Cross**: When using all four gospels, we discover that Jesus made seven statements from His cross – *all of which are very important!* We will review all seven of them on Good Friday, both at 11 and 7, *and in different ways at those two services*. Statements 4, 5, 6, and 7 were all made at about 3:00 in the afternoon on Good Friday. For now, we consider Jesus' fifth and sixth statements.

- a. Statement 5 of 7: **<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."<sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. // What did Jesus know was "finished"? †He knew He had lived a sinless life in our place; †He knew He had received our sins and God's wrath upon Himself; and †He knew He had opened heaven to all believers! Therefore, ♦to fulfill the Scriptures and ♦to get ready to announce His victory, He said, **"I thirst."** Earlier He refused to drink, *but at this time He did!* He was extremely parched, but He did it to ♦fulfill**

the Scriptures and clearly let everyone know what He had just accomplished!

- b. Statement 6 of 7: **30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,”** // Think about this: God made a perfect world; *then the people and all creation were pulled down when Adam and Eve fell into sin; therefore, God promised that He would remove the curse through a future descendant of the woman!* ♦ Then, for 4,000 years, *God kept reminding His people of His promise!* ♦ Then, in the fullness of time, *God sent His Son!* ♦ Then, according to God’s plan, *Jesus did everything to accomplish His mission!* ♦ Then, when all was finished, *Jesus declared it to be so!!!* ♦ Now, by grace through faith in Jesus, *the way to paradise is open!!!*
- c. Jesus laid down His life: **and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.** // That action actually accompanied Jesus’ seventh statement, which is recorded in [Luke 23:46](#). No one took Jesus’ life from Him; instead, once His work was finished, *He laid down His life to seal His victory!*

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Lord Jesus, *our God in human flesh*, we thank You so very much for †coming, †living, †suffering, †announcing, and †dying to provide us with You as our robe of righteousness, *making us fit for God’s kingdom!* Help us to spread the good news of Your victory!

Some of the content of this sermon is from the series, Behold the Man (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2018).

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