

## Day Twenty-Four

### Jesus: Real, Relevant, Raw and Radical!

### It is Finished

**Mark 15:23(NLT)** They offered him wine drugged with myrrh, **but he refused it.**

**John 19:28-30(NIV)** Later, **knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled**, Jesus said, **"I am thirsty."** 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.

Twice on the cross Jesus was offered something to drink. The first drink was wine drugged with myrrh. This drink was given as an act of mercy, paid for by an association of Jewish women in Jerusalem. It was a way of lessening consciousness to help alleviate the pain of those who were executed. Jesus refused it. He was determined to face the agony and pain of the cross fully conscious. Fulfilling what Isaiah prophesied in **Isaiah 50:6-7(NLT)** *"I offered my back to those who beat me and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not hide my face from mockery and spitting. 7 Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. **Therefore, I have set my face like a stone, determined to do his will.** And I know that I will not be put to shame."*

Jesus set His face like a flint. Flintstone is very hard, and if you strike it against metal, it sparks. If you think Sylvester Stallone is the first "Rocky," you are wrong. Jesus is, and will forever be our Rock. Jesus refuses to take the easy way. Then, John comes along and writes these incredibly words: **"Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled"**, Jesus said, **"I am thirsty."** John makes a profound statement and says Jesus knew that everything that needed to be done to fulfill the Scripture was done. Then He speaks and says, **"I am thirsty"**. They offered Jesus a wine vinegar or sour wine. This drink is made of grape juice and yeast. Like we said yesterday, it was used as a refreshing drink by soldiers and farm workers. They soaked a sponge and then lifted it up to Jesus' mouth. In order to do this, they use the stalk of a hyssop plant. Jesus refuses the first drink (wine drugged with myrrh), but He accepts the second drink. (wine vinegar)

I believe Jesus drinks the second drink for two reasons. First, He drinks because what follows completely fulfills Scripture. Yeast is used in the Bible as a symbol for sin. Jesus is the perfect Passover Lamb because He has no sin within Himself. By drinking the fermented wine vinegar, Jesus shows that He has taken the sin of the world upon Himself. Remember what Moses told the Israelites: **Exodus 12(NLT) V5** *"The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, **with no defects.**"*

**V8** *That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and **bread made without yeast.***

**V22** *Take a **bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.***

We can see in the Bible (*Leviticus 14*) that hyssop was used for the ceremonial cleansing of people and places. David, after he sinned, prayed this in **Psalm 51:7(ESV)** ***“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”*** The blood of the lambs was applied to the doorposts during Passover, and once the blood was applied, no one was allowed to go out until the next morning. By going through the door that has the blood of the lambs applied to it, the Israelites are saved. We, by going through the Door who is Christ, receive forgiveness for our sin through His blood. The Holy Spirit applies the Blood of Jesus to our lives and acts like the Divine Hyssop that cleanses us completely.

Secondly, Jesus drinks to make a proclamation that everyone could hear. Just like a soldier that has completed his orders from his commanding officer, Jesus drinks. Just like a worker that has finished planting seeds for a harvest, Jesus drinks. Jesus, our victorious Champion, has won the battle. Jesus, the Promised Seed that would crush the serpents head, is finished. **Genesis 3:15(NKJV)** ***“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”***

**Galatians 3:16(NIV)** ***“The promises were spoken to Abraham and to **his seed.** Scripture does not say ‘and to seeds,’ meaning many people, but ‘and to your seed’ meaning one person, who is Christ.*** The Seed that would release many from the curse of the law has come. **19(a)** ***Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.”***

The law could not save us, but the Seed of Abraham will save us. Jesus wanted them all to hear. John makes it clear that Jesus knew what was going on around Him. He is not in a derelict semi-conscious state. He is very much aware. He knows He is the Passover Lamb. He knows He is the Door. He knows we all need to hear these words: **“IT IS FINISHED.”** Can you feel the weight of those words? Let them sink deep into your soul. What is finished? The old is finished. The blood of bulls and goats is no longer necessary. No more waiting in line to make an offering for sin. No more waiting for the high priest to appear from behind the veil and then breathe a sigh of relief for another year. No longer is God’s presence limited to a temple. We are now His temple.

Jesus completely fulfills all and every requirement of the law. Everything that I could not do no matter how hard I tried, He nails it to the cross. **Colossians 2:14-15(NLT)** ***“He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.”***

If your heart is heavy with the guilt of your sin, remind yourself it is finished. When the devil reminds you of your past, remind him he is finished. Yes! Jubilee has come. Freedom for the captives has come. The weight of my own sin is dealt with at the cross. Our champion has finished the battle and won. Just like a Champion, Jesus finishes with a Victor's cry. How does He do it? He started by quoting the first verse of Psalm 22, and He finishes by quoting the last. See if you recognize these words.

**Psalm 22:30-31(TPT)** ***“His spiritual seed shall serve him. Future generations will hear from us about the wonders of the Sovereign Lord. 31 His generation yet to be born will glorify him. And they will all declare, 'It is finished!'”***

**Prayer:**

- **Cast all your anxiety, fears and guilt on Him.**
- **Thank the Lord Jesus for His complete and finished work on the cross.**
- **Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to live in the freedom that Jesus purchased for you.**
- **Pray that others will receive this freedom that can only come by going through the Door.**