

The Window Of The Love That Suffers

The Fifth Window

John 19:28

INTRODUCTION

On the day Jesus died the Scriptures record seven statements; seven windows into the character of Christ and lessons for those who desire to see into the heart of Jesus and the heart of God.

Three of the statements are found in Luke's gospel. The conversations may have been heard in part or whole by those who gathered around the cross that day.

A Hardened Criminal

A Seasoned Soldier

The Public At Large

A Group Of Women

A Religious Leader

One saying is given and repeated by Matthew and Mark; three by Luke and three by John. All seven sayings fall into two groups; the first three into one group; the last four into another group.

Three words were spoken to God the Father by Jesus the Son; and four to those who stood closest to Jesus.

Briefly the first window and the first word is found in Luke 23:34;

“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. . .”

The second window is found in Luke 23:43;

“Today you shall be with me in paradise. . .”

The Third Window is found in John 19:26, 27;

Woman, behold your Son. . .behold your mother!”

The fourth Window is found in Matthew 27:46;

“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

The fifth window is found in John 19:28;

“I thirst”

The Sixth Window is found in John 19:30;

“It is finished”

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And the seventh window is found in Luke 23:46;

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”.

Three of the seven sayings are prayers to God; the first, fourth and seventh sayings were addressed to God the Father. The fifth saying; the one we now consider; is more a petition to those who are the instruments of His crucifixion. The last, the final words of Jesus are taken from the Old Testament; we have an insight into His source of comfort as He bowed His head and died. “Father into Your hands I commit My spirit;” as Jesus commits His spirit to God He brings all believers near to God; and we are in the Father’s hands.

The first window allows us to see a love that forgives;
The second window allows us to see a love that transforms;
The third window allows us to see a love that provides;
The fourth window allows us to see a love that questions;
The fifth window allows us to see a love that suffers;
The sixth window allows us to see a love that triumphs;
The seventh window allows us to see a love that surrenders;

A Predicted Suffering

KJV “After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.”

What do we see in our fifth window? We are given a glimpse of of a love that suffers and endures suffering on behalf of the one loved!

Paul was right when he wrote; “Love suffers long”.

Christopher Wordsworth (1862)

*Love is kind, and suffers long;
Love is meek, and thinks no wrong;
Love than death itself more strong:
Therefore give us Love.*

This is not the first time Jesus ever asked for a drink of water. But it is the first time Jesus has asked for water from an enemy.

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What was the Scripture John has in mind? Most Bible scholars think Psalm 69:21; where at the end of the verse we read “For my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”

Both Matthew and Mark write “they” took a sponge, placed it on a stick, dipped it in wine vinegar, and gave him a drink.

A Personal Suffering

In our Bible the two words “I thirst” translate one word in the language that Jesus spoke; David James Burrell says of this one word cry; “It is as brief and simple as the wail of a little child. The chronicler makes no comment, attempts no explanation.”

Spurgeon; “I cannot say that it is short and sweet, for, alas, it was bitterness itself to the Lord Jesus; and yet out of its bitterness I trust there will come great sweetness to us. Though bitter to Him in the speaking, it will be sweet to us in the hearing—so sweet that the bitterness of our trials shall be forgotten as we remember the vinegar and gall which He drank.”

An Unquenchable Thirst

CONCLUSION