



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #325
Friday... Day of Agony and Atonement

Jesus' Atoning Sacrifice On the Cross

The Death of Jesus: His 5th, 6th, and 7th Sayings On the Cross
JN 19.28-30 (Parallel Texts: MT 27.50; MK 15.37; LK 23.46)

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28 ^JLater, knowing that everything had now been permanently finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, *"I am thirsting."*

29 A jar of wine vinegar was sitting 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 has been permanently accomplished (finished)."*

^LJesus cried out ^{MT}again ^Lwith a loud voice: *"FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."* (Ps. 31.5)

Then he bowed his head and gave up his last breath.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Golgotha, Outside the Western City Gates of Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	E. Friday: Day of Agony and Atonement
	Jesus' Atoning Sacrifice on the Cross
Title:	The Death of Jesus: His Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Sayings on the Cross

Today's reading describes the three final sayings of Jesus on the cross, spoken just before death ended his suffering.

It was about 3:00 PM. John pointed out that Jesus' mind was full of the realization that he had accomplished everything required for atonement. John used the Greek perfect tense to emphasize total and complete fulfillment of the Scriptures.

Yet, Jesus thought of one more thing. David had written: *"They gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."* (Ps. 69.21) Jesus had been offered gall, or wine-vinegar mixed with myrrh twice already; before the nails were driven into his wrists and ankles, and again just a few minutes before, after he cried out his fourth saying. Both times he had refused the drink because he did not want to deaden the pain, or his consciousness in any way.

But now he knew he had finished his atoning work. He was moments away from death. Accepting the gall now would not affect his ability to atone for our sins, but it would fulfill the Scriptures in one more detail. So he asked for, and drunk the wine.

"I am thirsting."

This fifth saying also verified the real humanity of Jesus. His pain and suffering were real. As we have seen in past readings, dehydration was the cause of death in a normal crucifixion, and mind-twisting, horrible thirst was the greatest torture of the cross. Jesus' mention of his thirst was an indication of the historical accuracy of the gospel record, and the authenticity of his suffering.

(I have included [a link to a pdf document](#) that describes another vital aspect of this saying that we do not have time to cover in the DJN. I believe you will find this one of the most inspiring things about Jesus you have ever seen. Please read it at your leisure.)

When Jesus finished the drink he spoke his sixth saying:

"It has been permanently accomplished (finished)."

This word declared what Jesus was already thinking, and knew to be true. He spoke it for our benefit. Everything relating to the atonement of our sins was accomplished by Jesus when he died. There is nothing else that any one of us can, or should do to obtain forgiveness other than to confess, or "agree with Jesus" regarding our sins, and eternal forgiveness.

Jesus' first saying was his constant prayer for our forgiveness. His sixth saying declared that his prayer and substitutionary payment for our sins had accomplished it forever. Jesus used the Greek perfect tense here to indicate that the results of what he finished for us are a fixed, permanent accomplishment. His blood will never lose its power to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The seventh and final saying of Jesus was shouted out again with great volume:

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

This was a quotation from Ps. 31.5. It was often prayed by young Jewish children at bedtime in Jesus' day. He had probably ended his day with this same prayer many times before. Now he expressed his child-like, pure, holy faith in his Father with his last breath.

Jesus lived in faith, suffered on the cross by faith, and died declaring his faith and intimacy with his Father. This word matched the hope and certainty of victory that ended Ps. 22 perfectly.

Jesus "gave up his last breath" in full control of his senses, and his death. He had said less than six months earlier, at the Feast of Tabernacles:

"My Father loves me because I lay down my life, so that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own initiative. I have the power to lay it down, I have the power to take it up. I received this instruction from my Father." (JN 10.17-18)

From the moments of his arrest we have seen how Jesus was in control of what was happening to him. He declared to Pilate that the power behind these events came from heaven—not men. Jesus chose to end his physical life—no one took it from him.

Isn't our Lord glorious?

APPLICATION:

The weight of our guilt for certain sins causes us to be unable to forgive ourselves. We try to punish ourselves to gain a sense of forgiveness. Some people try to literally flog themselves, or crucify themselves, or practice other forms of self-inflicted suffering to assuage their guilt.

Either Jesus finished the work of atonement, as he said, or he didn't. If he did, the best way to honor his unspeakable sacrifice and suffering is to simply believe and agree with him regarding the absolute sufficiency of his death to pay for our sins.

There is nothing left of us to do but believe in him, and his finished work. Attempting to add our own payment and suffering is an insult to his finished work.

"The Holy Spirit also bears witness to us, saying:

"THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD:

"I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR MINDS.

"Then he says,

"AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."

"Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin needed."

(Hebrews 10.15-18)

AMEN!

What sins do you need to confess to Jesus today?

How will you praise and thank him today for finishing the work of atonement on your behalf?

Who can you share the message of his forgiveness with today?

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*Inspirational Thoughts on Jesus' 5<sup>th</sup> Saying on the Cross: "I am Thirsty"*