

Good Friday

April 10, 2020

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And so, we hear very simply two words from Jesus from the cross, "I thirst." What does He thirst for? He thirsts for you. He thirsts for His love. He thirsts for you. He thirsts for your love. Often when I do my passion talk, and I'm yelling and screaming about what more could he do for you, when I go through the seven last words, I focus on I thirst. I talk about you know is it just good enough to be a good person? You know just to believe in something? Is that what this is about just being a good person and believing in something?

Jesus cries out from the cross, "I thirst!" And He thirsts for you. The question is do you thirst for Him or is this just some ritual you go through every Good Friday? Is this just some religion you're part of? This isn't about being a part of a religion. It's about being a person who thirsts for Jesus Christ, Who thirst for us. He thirsts for you. And somewhere we have got to know that what Jesus did on the cross was the most important thing.

Again, you my parishioners who have heard this, but I love to tell the story about years ago I was listening to a Christian radio show for high school kids and they were calling in, it was during Thanksgiving, and says call in and tell us what you're most grateful for. Kids called in from all over the United States. One kid called in and says, "I am most grateful that my family loves me and that they give their time for me and they give money for me." "Praise God. It's a great thing to be grateful for." Another guy called and says and was asked, "What are so grateful for?" And he says, "I'm grateful that I'm a great athlete and to God be the glory. It's all Him. To God be the glory that I'm an athlete." "That's a great thing to be grateful for." Everybody called in with different things about what they're grateful for.

The last girl, I will never forget it, was a 14 year old girl, and the radio host said, "Sweetheart what are you most grateful for this Thanksgiving?" She said, "What am I most grateful for? I am most grateful that Jesus Christ died for my sins." That's a Christian. If I was to ask you before we started this Liturgy what are you most grateful for? That you're healthy? You didn't get the corona virus? That your family's healthy? That you have a job? Or what? What are you grateful for? What are you most grateful for? I wonder if anyone who's listening now would say what I'm most grateful for is that Jesus Christ died for me. Because if He did not die for you and me, we would be separated from God forever. The most important thing that ever happened to you was Jesus Christ died for you. You can't earn salvation. He earned it for you.

So what we need to be is grateful. One of the great things to think about is when you look at the cross today, do you feel guilty? You know oh yeah look at everything I did for Jesus. Do you feel guilty? When you look at the cross, does it make you focus on yourself? Because then it's about fear and it's about you. When you look at the cross you should feel grateful. You should look at Jesus and just say, "Jesus, thank You, thank You, thank You that You would give up Your life for me. Jesus wants you to be with Him forever. That's why He took your sin and He paid the penalty.

Again, it's kind of like you're sitting in the electric chair. You deserve to die. You have sinned. That is the justice of God. His justice must be fulfilled. And you're sitting there and you are afraid. And as you're sitting there and you are afraid, Jesus says, "Stop!" He unties you from the electric chair, He hugs you. He says, "I love you and I'm going to do this to prove that I love you." Then He sits down in the electric chair and then He says, "Okay," and He dies. And He pays the penalty for your sin.

I'll bet you every day for the rest of your life you tell everybody who would listen, "You know I should be dead. But you know Jesus sat there He took my penalty and He died for me. That's why I live." And that's what you and I need to be proclaiming. My favorite verse of the Bible, as everybody knows, who should be listening now, if you've heard or read anything I've done is Galatians 2:19 and 2:20. It'll be on my gravestone when I drop dead at 120 because the good die young. It says just very simply, "I have been crucified with Christ, so the life I live is no longer my own. Jesus Christ lives inside of me. I live my human life yes, but it is a life of faith, in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave His life for me.

Today you are called to be crucified with Jesus Christ. You are called and I am called, to die with Him that we no longer live, but that Jesus starts living inside of us. So be grateful that He died for you and that He would take your penalty of your sin upon Himself and thirst for Him. Thirst for His love because He thirsts for you. And He thirsts for your love. May each of you know His love today and forever, amen.