**John 19:28-30 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!” Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.**

 Easter is only a week away. With this wonderful day of celebration almost upon us, we are happy and excited. This is a time of excitement for the Lord. This is a time of focus on His gift. No worries can close the windows of worship. No sickness can silence the songs of our spirits. No virus can still the voices telling of victory in Jesus… unless we allow it. Let’s choose today to stare at our Savior and thank Him for His faithfulness on the Cross. Let’s decide this moment to see the loving choice He made for those who hadn’t earned it.

 Read the first half of Verse 28, *“After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished.* The word accomplished. The Greek word is teleo. It’s an interesting word – it means a debt has been discharged! A plan has been executed. It’s complete. No more is owed.

That is what Jesus is telling us today. No more is owed. When you believe on Me, I discharge your debt. The Bible is very clear that the debt for sin is eternal death. Period. All have sinned and owe this debt. Through belief in Christ, He clears our debt. To be paid back? No. To be held against us all our life? No. To be used to make us feel guilty? No. It’s called Grace. He discharged every sin for those who trust in His name at that very second on Calvary.

The second half says, “*that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!”*As we spoke last week, the Old Testament validates the New Testament. Jesus fulfilled scripture when He said, “I thirst.” What scripture? Listen to Psalm 22:15 - *My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.* One thousand years before Jesus, King David describes the suffering of the Messiah. Before crucifixion was conceived, Psalm 22 describes in brutal detail how Christ suffered. One of the most brutal features of crucifixion is the way that the body dehydrates, because of injury, exposure, exertion to draw the next breath. The heart beats heavy in the chest and feels like wax. Christ is not bleeding out! He’s suffocating and dehydrating! He says, “I thirst!”

Verse 29 - *Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.*Vinegar was offered on hyssop. The vinegar is another Old Testament prophecy fulfilled. Psalm 69:21 - *They also gave me gall for my food,
And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.* But what of the plant it’s delivered on? Hyssop? We must not let this plant be lost on us. Hyssop is mentioned throughout the Bible. In Leviticus 14, hyssop is part of the ritual cleansing of a diseased person. In Psalm 51, David prays to be cleansed with hyssop. And, in this time that Jesus is being sacrificed as the Lamb of God, we find hyssop being used to deliver the vinegar. How the Bible twines together and knits neatly… in this time, great comfort is found in the fulfillment of all God’s promises.

Look at the first half of verse 30 - *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!”*It is finished! Those words still echo through eternity. There’s no more to be done. The Greek word for finished is the same one we talked about up in verse 28 – teleo. Jesus cried from the Cross – the debt of sin is discharged! There’s no more to be done now or ever.

As Christians, we don’t witness for others, give to the church, love one another, as a payback to Jesus. We can never payback the debt He paid. To believe that we must work to pay Jesus back is to sin in pride against the very work He’s done. It’s like saying, “Jesus, Your sacrifice wasn’t good enough. Let me, in all my pride and selfishness, complete that payment.” It’s pride. It’s making ourselves powerful and stealing from the Savior. No. He said it’s finished and it’s finished. The only question is – what will we do with it? Will we accept it and allow Him to change who we are so our works flow from that place of faith? Or will we work to pay an unpayable debt that Christ has already discharged? Our freedom is in Jesus.

Then, the last half of the verse - *And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.* Gave up His spirit. Are we really so silly that we believe that Jesus, who healed with a word, made the lame to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear, cured long standing diseases, cleansed lepers, walked on water, and calmed raging storms died? Think about that. He could have simply closed up His wounds with a word, healed His body with a thought, and stepped down from the Cross. No my friends, make no mistake. Christ chose. He was obedient unto death. He gave up His spirit. The original language means He surrendered His spirit – He voluntarily gave it over. The debt is paid. 2 Corinthians 5:21 - *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* He paid it all, so we might stand debt-free and righteous before a Perfect God.

This week, praise Jesus for the debt He paid. Celebrate! He is risen. He laid His life down because He chose you, He chose me. We honor that sacrifice every day by witnessing for Him, worshipping with Him, praying through Him, and living fearlessly before Him. Let’s live in fearlessness, knowing His payment was enough, and that makes us enough by living for Him.