

7. Jesus Gives Up His Spirit

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[0 : 00] Station 7. Jesus gives up his spirit.

As many hours pass, Jesus surely knows that the end of his harrowing journey is drawing near. In Matthew 27, John 19, and Mark 15, we read these passages.

Which means, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, I am thirsty.

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.

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, It is finished. With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

[1 : 36] And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, Surely this man was the Son of God.

Why has God the Father forsaken his son Jesus? Behind this cry of anguish, Jesus surely knows that the abandonment is because he is bearing the full brunt of divine justice on behalf of everyone who's ever lived.

You and I deserve to be forsaken and die when we rebelled against our creator God. Jesus stepped in and was forsaken on our behalf.

Place before you is some actual wine vinegar. Smell it. Then take a little sponge stick and taste the sourness.

Sour wine is a typical drink for commoners and soldiers.

[2 : 48] Imagine yourself being absolutely parched and exhausted to the point of death, but given this sour wine for relief. We can only imagine the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual pain that Jesus is going through.

But in drinking the wine vinegar, Jesus gives us a window into his soul and shows us that he's fulfilling scripture. In Psalm 69, Jesus' experience is something that King David foreshadowed a thousand years earlier.

You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed. All my enemies are before you. Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless.

I looked for sympathy, but there was none. For comforters, but I found none. They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst. This is how Jesus is feeling.

This is what he's enduring on the cross. All because he loves you. One final thing.

[4 : 03] You might think that Jesus is in this horrible, pitiable state. And that might be true. But consider this. Jesus does not die in a state of passiveness and helplessness.

Jesus bows his head. Jesus gives up his spirit. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for us, his sheep. No one takes it from him.

We invite you to pause right here and meditate on just how momentous this is. The event that's just happened before you will change the course of human history.

This changes everything. When you're ready, we'll be waiting for you at the final station. Good day and very soon.