

# The Gospel of John

## Both God and Man

### John 19:28-30

#### INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are continuing in the Gospel of John. You have heard me say several times that the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. The more I have read and studied the scriptures, the more I realize that they have to be inspired by God. One of the convincing factors of the inspiration of scripture is the harmony that exists throughout the Bible. In the Old Testament we see prophecies made over a thousand years before Christ that tell of the events that the Messiah will experience. John often refers to the Old Testament to prove that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies concerning Him as the Messiah. It is from the Old Testament scripture that we can identify Jesus as being the Messiah. The fact that Jesus was able to perfectly fulfill each prophecy concerning Him was in itself a miracle. We saw a few weeks ago that, by human experience, it would be utterly impossible for one man to accomplish this. That was the purpose of John writing his Gospel.

#### **John 19:35 (NASB)**

<sup>35</sup> And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.

Thus it is imperative for us to read and study God's word in order to understand His ways and believe.

#### Stand and Read Scripture

#### **John 19:28-30 (NASB)**

<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture would be fulfilled, \*said, "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine was standing *there*; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on *a branch of hyssop* and brought it *up* to His mouth. <sup>30</sup> Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

#### Prayer

#### BODY:

##### **I. THE OMNISCIENCE OF CHRIST.**

The first thing we notice about Christ in this passage is that He is omniscient. Omniscience is defined as "the state of having total knowledge, the quality of knowing everything."

#### **John 19:28a (NASB)**

<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished,...

For God to be sovereign over His creation of all things, whether visible or invisible, He has to be all-knowing. His omniscience is not restricted to any one person in the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all by nature omniscient.

Jesus knew the plan of God exactly. He knew when every single detail had been accomplished. He knew that all scripture must be fulfilled in His dying.

His omniscience is clearly seen in the New Testament writings. When the apostles were praying for someone to replace Judas Iscariot, their prayer implied Jesus' omniscience.

### **Acts 1:24 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup> And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all *people*, show which one of these two You have chosen

On earth, Jesus' omniscience is just as clear. In many Gospel accounts, He knew the thoughts of his audience.

He knew about people's lives before He had even met them. When He met the woman at the well in Sychar, He said to her...

### **John 4:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this *which* you have said is true."

He also tells His disciples that their friend Lazarus was dead, although He was over 25 miles away from Lazarus's home.

He advised the disciples to go and make preparation for the Lord's Supper, describing the person they were to meet and follow.

## **II. THE HUMAN SIDE OF CHRIST.**

We can clearly observe Jesus' ability to "know all" on earth, but this is where the paradox begins as well. Jesus asks questions, which imply the absence of knowledge and indicates that He had limitations due to His human nature. We read that as a man He "grew in wisdom and stature".

### **Luke 2:52 (NASB)**

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and people.

He also learned "obedience through suffering".

### **Hebrews 5:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

Matthew even tells us that He did not know when the world would be brought to an end.

### **Matthew 24:35-36 (NASB)**

<sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

<sup>36</sup> “But about that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

We, therefore, have to ask, why would the Son not know this, if He knew everything else? Rather than regarding this as just a human limitation, we should regard it as a controlled lack of knowledge. This was a self-willed act of humility in order to share fully in our nature.

### **Philippians 2:6-11 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> who, as He *already* existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself *by* taking the form of a bond-servant *and* being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> For this reason also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We also see the human side of Jesus in verse 28 of our text.

### **John 19:28 (NASB)**

<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, \*said, “**I am thirsty.**”

This was Christ’s **fifth** of seven utterances from the cross.

There was one prophecy yet to be fulfilled, and He knew it, so He says, “**I am thirsty.**”

In His thirst we see the true humanity of Christ. Since He was God in the flesh, He experienced all the normal human limitations of real human flesh. And none was more vivid than this moment of agonizing thirst after hours of hanging on the cross. He suffered bodily to an extent few have ever suffered. And—again, so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled—all He was given to relieve His fiery thirst was vinegar.

What prophecy did He have in mind?

### **Psalms 69:21 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup> They also gave me a bitter herb in my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

That prophecy from Psalm 69:21 had to be fulfilled, so verse 29 says,

### **John 19:29 (NASB)**

<sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine was standing *there*; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a *branch* of hyssop and brought it *up* to His mouth.

What was the sour wine? Well, there are a couple of possibilities; maybe both are true. Some say that it was there for the soldiers to quench their thirst. It was a cheap form of

wine, almost a vinegar. Others say it was used to assuage the thirst of the dying victim for the purpose of extending his agony. They would basically die of literally drying up. So they would give them something to drink, such as this sour wine, to extend their agony. So, when Jesus asked for relief from the horrible thirst of dehydration, He was given only a sponge saturated with pure vinegar.

Matthew and Mark give us clarification on the prophesied bitter herb that had been offered to Jesus earlier.

**Matthew 27:34 (NASB)**

<sup>34</sup> they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting *it*, He was unwilling to drink.

**Mark 15:23 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it.

Wine mixed with bitter herbs or myrrh created a potion that dulled the sense of pain. The mixture of sour wine and gall was often given to the suffering to ease their pain in death.

They had tried to give Him gall, but He didn't take it, because gall was a sedative to try to diminish the horrifying pain. He refused that, because he wanted the full impact of the suffering.

Notice that they put a sponge on the end of a hyssop reed and put it up to His mouth. Any Jew reading that would immediately think of Exodus 12. This was during the Passover night in Egypt. When the angel of death came you had to have blood on the door posts and the crosspiece or the angel of death would kill your firstborn. They were told to sacrifice the lamb, and spread its blood on the doorpost and the crosspiece **using hyssop**.

Jesus was the **true** Passover Lamb, and hyssop again plays a part in the scene. The Jews would have to think back to the saving blood of the Passover lamb.

Jesus refused this gall-laced concoction after He tasted it and realized what it was. He chose to reject anything that would numb the suffering He endured for our salvation. Sin against a holy God required extreme punishment, and, in order to completely fulfill His position as our substitute, Jesus wanted nothing that took away from that punishment. On the cross, Jesus became sin for us.

**2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup> He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

To accept wine with gall would lessen sin's punishment, and Jesus had come to bear the full brunt of God's wrath against sin, not to take an easier way out.

**III. THE PROCLAMATION OF VICTORY.**

John's account of the crucifixion continues:

**John 19:30 (NASB)**

<sup>30</sup> Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

In the Greek text, this sixth utterance of Jesus from the cross is a single word: *teleō!* (TAH LAY' OH). Luke indicates He made this cry "with a loud voice."

It was a triumphant outcry. He did not mean merely that His earthly life was over. He was not referring to His physical death! He meant that the work the Father had given Him to do was now complete. As He hung there, looking every bit like a pathetic, wasted victim, He was celebrating the greatest triumph in the history of the universe! Christ's atoning work was finished; redemption for sinners was complete; and He was triumphant!

Christ had fulfilled on behalf of sinners everything the law of God required of them. Full atonement had been made. Everything the Old Testament law foreshadowed had been accomplished. God's justice was satisfied. The ransom for sin was paid in full. The wages of sin were settled forever. All that remained was for Christ to physically die so that He could rise again.

You need to know He died way ahead of schedule for crucified people. You also need to know that He was not a wimp. He was not a weak person who looked malnourished. If ever there was a man who was all that manhood could be, He was that man. No sin, no corruption, and it is important for you to know that when He died, He died because He allowed Himself to die, and He gave up His spirit. Matthew and Mark tell us that when He said, "It is finished," He was shouting.

Not only did people on a cross die of dehydration, but asphyxiation, the lack of air. But it is too soon for that to happen to Him. He has just been given something to drink. He is still strong. He shouts at the top of His voice, and then "**He bowed His own head and gave up His spirit.**"

Jesus was both God and man. This once again showed the omnipotence or sovereignty of Jesus as God by controlling His death. The people and Jewish leaders were mocking Jesus as they passed in front of the cross.

### **Matthew 27:39-42 (NASB)**

<sup>39</sup> And those passing by were speaking abusively to Him, shaking their heads, <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who *are going to* destroy the temple and rebuild *it* in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking *Him* and saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others; He cannot save Himself! He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him.

Jesus could have stopped the charade at any time if He chose. But Jesus had come to do the will of the Father and provide salvation for mankind. Remember what he told Peter when he took out his sword and cut off the ear of Malchus?

### **Matthew 26:53 (NASB)**

<sup>53</sup> Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

Jesus had explained that to the Pharisees earlier.

### **John 10:17-18 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it back. <sup>18</sup> No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it back. This commandment I received from My Father.”

And He will do that Sunday morning when He raises from the dead. “It is finished!” And then Luke says that He cried, “**Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit,**” and He willed His own being out of His body.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The word "sovereign" means "**having supreme or ultimate power.**" The Bible tells us that God is all-powerful (omnipotent) and that He is all-knowing (omniscient) and that He exists outside the realm of time, he can see everything from past, present, and future, concurrently (omnipresent) and that He is responsible for the creation of all things. These divine characteristics show that God is sovereign over all His Creation—the universe and its stars and planets, the earth and its plants, animals, people, etc.

Accepting God's sovereignty is one of the most important principles of the Christian faith. Without acceptance that God has complete control over all things, we could never be sure of His ability to enact His will for His good purposes.

### **Romans 8:28 (NASB)**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

**Since God is sovereign, then He must also be the one and only God.** The leaders of all other religions were **actually** all created by Him. Throughout history, mankind has always followed false religions and worshipped other gods. But God has proven over and over again that He is the one and only true God.

The difference between Christianity and all of the other religions is that all of the other religious leaders have died, and everyone of them are still in the grave today...except Jesus! He rose from the dead as prophesied in the Old Testament to **prove** that all He had taught and done were from the one and only true God.

What it comes down to is that although God is sovereign, He loves us immensely and He sent His Son to teach us His ways. He preserved those teachings in the Bible for us to read and understand. He gave us the ability to **CHOOSE** to love Him or reject Him. Yes, He could **MAKE** us love and obey Him, but that is not what God does! Just because He **CAN** does not mean He **WILL**. God doesn't want people to be His puppets; He wants people to become His sons and daughters.

**He is Lord!**