

Speaker: Pastor Hurmon Hamilton

WHEN LIFE DISAPPOINTS - PT 3: "I AM THIRSTY"

Scripture used: John 19:28 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

While Jesus was in incredible pain hanging on the cross, the phrase He uttered was "I am thirsty." This phrase not only indicates a literal thirst to quench His parched throat and lips but is used to explain and reveal Jesus' heart. John 19:28 says that "Jesus knew His mission was now finished, *and to fulfill scripture, He said, 'I am thirsty.'*" There must be something incredibly soothing about knowing that one's mission is complete. Jesus drank as a final act, indicating that His mission was complete. He stayed focused to the very end to fulfill God's promise and prophecy to the world. Like the hyssop plant that was used to paint the sacrificial lamb's blood over the doorposts and frames of the Israelites' homes to save them from death (Exodus 12:22), Jesus drank from the sponge on a hyssop plant to indicate the last act He was destined to perform to save the world from sin.

Jesus shows us again the things to focus on when facing disappointments in life. There is an importance to know and fulfill our mission, as well as to adjust the expectations from the things that we thirst for. Jesus desires for us to find that, when we seek the things that HE thirsts for, we will find that we are no longer thirsty!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Lock into my Mission (purpose)!** - Disappointment has the ability to squeeze out of us the ability to know or even the desire to know what our mission or purpose is. People with no mission or purpose believe we live simply to exist. But we all need to see that God has a living purpose within each of us!
 - a. **I am formed for the family of God.** - God desires for us to be adopted into His family (Ephesians 1:5). Likewise, we are also formed to care for family, who are close and dear to us. Our Purpose begins in relationships!
 - b. **I am created to be like Christ.** - God decided in advance that we are to be like His Son (Romans 8:29). Observe what Jesus did in the face of disappointment. Jesus fasted and prayed. Even when on the cross, he was quoting Scripture. In the same way, prayer and knowing the Word will nurture us in our difficult times.
 - c. **I am shaped to serve.** - We are all part of the same body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27). We should not just believe, we should belong. This is demonstrated by serving in the Church.
 - d. **I am made for a mission.** - Just as Jesus loved, we are called to love (John 15:9). We serve in a church to know how to serve others outside of the church. We need to realize our mission and get plugged in! When we do so, it puts all our disappointments into their right perspective.
- 2) **Adjust my Expectations!** - When Jesus said "I am thirsty," He was expressing His thirst, His expectation, to be together in community with His Father. Many of us have expectations, or thirsts, in the things we pour our lives into. The Samaritan woman thirsted after relational significance to which Jesus told her, "I am the living water". The man at the pool of Bethesda had a mission to get into the pool, to which Jesus redirected his expectation by asking him, "Do you want to get well?" How may Jesus be redirecting your expectations?

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What is your mission? What mission is God specifically calling you to (or has He called you to), particularly if you have gone through or in the midst of disappointment?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - We all go through missions of some sort. Many of the missions are just not in tune with God's mission for us, nor do they fulfill our expectations in the end. How may God be challenging you, as He did with the Samaritan woman and the lame man, to adjust your expectations?
- 3) **DO** - Spend time examining your mission/pursuits and find ways in which God is concretely challenging you to adjust your expectations. Also, continue fasting and praying for this week's community prayer emphasis:

This Week's Community Prayer Emphasis:

for **God** to direct the NBCC community as we endeavor to strengthen local relationships and make a greater impact throughout the Bay Area, beginning with our Education Initiative.

for **God** to unleash healing, peace and esteem into the lives of those in and outside of the NBCC community who are struggling with physical or mental illness and to strengthen family members and loved ones caring for them.