

Fr Ryan Homily – Good Friday 4-7-23

Read: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 31; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

And as we sit for a moment with this gospel, what Jesus did for us not just to take away our sins, which would be enough, but what He did was so that we could be with Him forever. To restore our relationship with the Lord. And we look at these seven things Jesus said from the cross and everything He said was very short because it was hard for Him to breathe. He had to push Himself up to get even a little bit of air into His lungs. And so everything He says is short. And one of the things He says from the cross is simply “I thirst.” And when the people in the gospel heard that they thought He was speaking of His physical thirst. They run to get Him something to drink. But what Jesus was really saying was I thirst for you; I’m doing this for you. God thirsts for us. And Mother Teresa, now St. Teresa of Calcutta, had those two words put over the crucifix in all of her sisters’ chapels around the world. I thirst. As a reminder for them of Jesus’ desire for them – I thirst for you. And so on this Good Friday I just wanna share with you a meditation I found many years ago. Don’t even know who wrote it anymore but it’s always been very meaningful to me. It’s Jesus speaking and He’s saying I thirst to us and all that that implies. And so He’s speaking to us from the cross. So if you’d like to maybe just close your eyes for a few minutes as I share this with you. This is about Jesus’ thirst for you today in your life. Jesus speaks from the cross and He says this to you.

I know you through and through. I know everything about you. The very hairs on your head I have numbered. Nothing in your life is unimportant to me. I have followed you through the years and I have always loved you. Even in your wanderings. I know every one of your problems. I know your needs and your worries and yes I know all your sins. But I tell you again that I love you. Not for what you have or haven’t done - I love you for you. For the beauty and dignity you have often forgotten. A beauty you have tarnished by sin. But I love you as you are, and I have shed my blood to win you back. If you only ask me with faith, My grace will touch all that needs changing in your life. And I will give you the strength to free yourself from sin and all its destructive power. I know what is in your heart. I know your loneliness and all your hurts. The rejections, the judgements, the humiliations, I carry it all before you. And I carried it all for you so

that I might share my strength and victory. I know especially your need for love. How you are thirsting to be loved and cherished. But how often you have thirsted in vain by seeking that love selfishly. Striving to fill the emptiness inside you with passing pleasures with an even greater emptiness of sin. Do you thirst for love? Come to me all you who thirst. I will satisfy you and fill you. Do you thirst to be cherished? I cherish you more than you can imagine. To the point of dying on the cross for you. I thirst for you. Yes that is the only way to even begin to describe My love for you. I thirst for you. I thirst to love you and to be loved by you. That is how precious you are to me. I thirst for you, come to me and I will fill your heart and heal your wounds. I will make you a new creation and give you peace even in all your trials. I thirst for you. You must never doubt my mercy. My acceptance of you, My desire to forgive, My longing to bless you and live My life in you. I thirst for you. If you feel unimportant in the eyes of the world, that matters not at all. For Me there is no one more important in the entire world than you. I thirst for you. Open to Me, come to Me, thirst for Me, give Me your life and I will prove to you how important you are to My heart. Do you realize that My Father already has a perfect plan to transform your life beginning from this moment? Trust in me. Ask Me everyday to enter and take charge of your life and I will. I promise you before My Father in Heaven that I will work miracles in your life. Why would I do this? Because I thirst for you. All I ask of you is that you entrust yourself to Me completely. I will do all the rest. Even now I behold the place My Father has prepared for you in My Kingdom. Remember that you are a pilgrim in this life on a journey home. Sin can never satisfy you or bring the peace you seek. All that you have sought outside of Me has only left you more empty. So do not cling to the things of this life. Above all do not run from Me when you fall. Come to Me without delay. When you give Me your sins you give Me the joy of being your savior. There is nothing I cannot forgive or heal so come now and unburden your soul. No matter how far you may wander, no matter how often you forget Me, no matter how many crosses you may bear in this life, there is one thing I want you to always remember, one thing that will never change. I thirst for you just as you are. You don't need to change to believe in My love for it will be your belief in My love that will change you. You forget Me. And yet I am seeking you every moment of the day. Standing at the door of your heart and knocking. Do you find this hard to believe? Then look at the cross. Look at My heart that was pierced for you. Have you not understood My cross? Then listen again to the words I spoke there for

they tell you clearly why I endured all this for you. I thirst, yes I thirst for you. As the rest of the song verse I was praying says of Me I looked for someone to console me and I found none. All your life I've been looking for your love. I've never stopped seeking to love you and to be loved by you. You've tried many other things in your search for happiness. Why not try opening your heart to Me right now more than you have ever done before? Whenever you open the door of your heart, whenever you come close enough you will hear Me say to you again and again not in mere human words but in Spirit. No matter what you have done I love you for your own sake. Come to me in your misery and your sins, with your troubles and needs, and with all your longing to be loved. I stand at the door of your heart and knock. Open to Me for I thirst for you.

Every time we meditate on Jesus on the cross He's saying that same thing. I thirst for you. And the only thing He wants from you and I this Good Friday is for us to thirst for Him. To open our hearts to Him this afternoon and let Him come into our lives. Because He wants us to desire Him and want what He wants for our lives as much as He desires and thirsts for us.

Amen