

# Christian Calling

*“Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the 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.” (John 19: 28-30)*

The above message is the last scene of the cross of Jesus. He mentioned in this scene two of His last words on the cross, **“I am thirsty,”** and **“It is finished.”** But what was the first word of the chosen passage? **“Later, knowing that all was completed and so that the scripture would be fulfilled.”** The word **Later** it mean there were things had happened in Jesus’ life before the last above scene of the crucifixion. The things that Jesus passes through, we Christians may pass through them as well, and these are the following: -

**1- Hard work:** Jesus started his ministry when he was around 30 years old and He served God for three to four years. He preached the good news of the kingdom of God, He healed the sick, raised people from the dead, drove out demons and taught and disciplined the twelve. Christians’ life and calling is a call for hard work and for diligence. We ought to work hard for God and to achieve what the Lord had commanded us to achieve within a frame of time. Jesus said the following: **“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)** Carrying the cross is a hard work but we need to do it and God will help us to achieve that.

**2- Rejection:** Jesus was arrested the night before the crucifixion; He was ill treated, mocked and ridiculed. He passed through the religious court; He was taken to Annas and then Caiapha the high priest. His disciples left Him; Peter denied Him and the rest of His disciples run away because they were afraid. That does not mean that His disciples are not loyal to Him? No, that not what we want to say here, but we want to reflect on how Jesus responded to what had happened to Him. When we decide to give our lives to God and follow Jesus, we will be denying the world, and we will be denying our previous religions, our customs and traditions. What we will be going to leave and deny are what the people revere and honour more than God and His Word. That may put us in conflicts with the people around us and they might reject us. If we are going to be fully obedient to God and we are not going to compromise then we will be facing rejection. Did Jesus know already that this would happen to Him? Yes, Jesus knew that because that was His mission. God sent Him to save whole mankind from sin and death. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He was buried and rose from the death on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their lives. The message of the cross here is faithfulness to the mission that God had entrusted to us. The rejection that Jesus faced did not discourage Him; the same should be applied to us, not to be discouraged by rejection.

Jesus was taken to Pilate, then Herod, and then the crowd rejected Him when they shouted, **“Crucify Him.”** The same crowd who praise Him as He entered Jerusalem, the same crowd who shouted to Pilate **“Crucify Him.”** In our service to God we might face rejection and in such a way; it is not easy situation, but we should not fail and give way for fear and run and not continue to achieve God’s mission to us. Rejection is a hard event and it may happen to us in life but how we will be going to respond to it that is what matter. Faithfulness to God and to the end amidst the hardships we face in this life is what God expect from us.

**3- Suffering:** Looking back to the way of the cross, Jesus was in reverent submission to God; **“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him (Hebrews 5:7-10)** Jesus was beaten, humiliated, He was slapped and they spat on His face. In addition He carried the heavy cross on His wounded and burned flogged back. And on His head there was the crown of thorns. As we called by God we may pass through suffering. Suffering should perfect us and make us like our Lord, **“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him.” (Philippians 1:29)** The burden of the cross is the mission of what the Lord had entrusted to us to carry while we are in the world. And the crown of thorns is the constant thinking and the mental tension to achieve the mission and what God had called us to achieve. In suffering we should not be tempted to give up and throw away the responsibility that Jesus had entrusted to us. Jesus was obedient to the will of God, the Father, and we need to be on the same level of expectation. The pain and the suffering should cultivate in us more love, patience, and faithfulness to God and to the call that He entrusted to us. Jesus forgave those who hurt Him. We need to do the same. Jesus while on the cross received one of the thieves and brought Him into the kingdom of God. We need to show humility in the mid of suffering that people would see the glory of God in us, and in such a way the message of God would be attractive not in Word but in action and deeds. Jesus while hanged on the cross He looked down and saw His mother, so He endorsed her to one of His disciples to care for her. For us in the mid of suffering we should not neglect our responsibilities and what the Lord had called us to do. Suffering is not a reason for us to be irresponsible people and neglect our assignments. We are called to complete what God had ordained for us to do and to achieve while we are waiting for Him to come and take us with Him to heaven.

**4- We need to Give more: Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”** What is the thirstiness he experienced and for what Jesus was thirsty? It is His thirstiness to do God's will and to finish the work that God entrusted to Him to complete. It is thirstiness for the righteousness of God, and it is thirstiness to the lost souls to come to God and to live their lives for Him. Jesus was thirsty because all His body fluid was drained out, and He was thirsty to give more in order that God’s righteousness to be fulfilled on earth. We might be in a station that we had given everything but yet we are not finished the race, so we are thirsty to see God’s plan fulfilled and therefore are called to give more to see His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**My Dear and Beloved: Jesus said, “It is finished.”** Now looking back to all what we discussed we found Jesus portrait clearly what God wanted Him to do and to be; He preserved to the end thirsting to accomplish all what God has for Him to achieve. We need to be and do the same. Christian Calling is call for perfection. We are called by God to fulfill the Scripture and not to neglect the Word of God. Our life should finally go forward to complete God's plan and will and to the end as we agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your Word that gives me great encouragement. Lord strengthens me with your love, and not allows any discouragement, rejection or suffering hindering me from serving you. Lord makes me faithful, to endure and persevere to the end. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*