

2016 Good Friday Meditation by Kathleen Horrey

“I am thirsty”

I am reminded on daily basis the incredible position of privilege I experience within my profession. My patients come to me with their ‘thirsts’. Their thirsts might stem from their pain, their fever, their sorrows, their worries, their grief...

My role is to help them quench that thirst. It is not always easy. Sometimes the treatment I might suggest is not palatable to the patient, like sour wine. Sometimes the treatment might not be affordable. Sometimes the treatment may not even exist, and so I sit with my patients, listening, hoping, praying that we may find some comfort.

I’ve shared with you before that because I am a witness to such thirst, such trauma sometimes, my own thirst seems negligible, unimportant. So, I keep those desires to myself, or only speak of them in the quietness of prayer. Some of my desires may be frivolous, but some are deeper. I thirst to be a more patient mother, wife, sister, daughter. I thirst to contribute more meaningfully to my community. I thirst to find a way to stop neglecting my own health and wellbeing.

I am rarely brave enough as the women we read of today, who in front of a large crowd of ‘important’ people, approached Jesus, weeping and using her tears to wash his feet and her hair to dry them. So profound was her thirst for forgiveness that she exposed herself in such a public and open manner.

Jesus too asked for help when he called out to say he was thirsty. He was not merely stating this as was written in John, “Knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scriptures would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” Look at him, on the cross. How could we imagine in that state of exceptional pain, physical and emotional pain, that he was not thirsty?

He spoke to his fellow man, to those surrounding him at the cross. He shared his desire, that he was thirsty. And they quenched his thirst.

While I believe and have faith in the power of silent prayer and medication, I think there are also times when we need to share our thirst with those around us, as I encourage my patients to do.

Because God may answer those desires, those thirsts, through the work of each other.