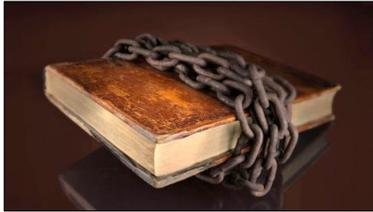


The Gospels in Harmony

The Hidden Stories

August 12, 2018

Welcome to where we're learning how to disclose what's hidden!



What's the hidden story in your life? He's been at work in you since the day you were born. So, what's He been up to?

We're looking at hidden stories that sit in plain sight in the Gospels, but only emerge if we trust every piece to be true and weave them together as instructed. Then they just pop right out!

For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. Therefore consider carefully how you listen.
– Luke 8:17 NIV

Not to mention how you *live*. The difference between us and the Lord here is that He *wants* His hidden stories *discovered*. **We prefer ours to stay in the dark.** And, **that's the worst way to waste the pain of the past.** Your greatest love, grace, help, and comfort to others will come from your greatest regrets and heartbreaks and personal failures.

[God] comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. – 2 Corinthians 1:4 NIV

That's why the enemy works so hard to help us keep 'em hidden.

Last week we saw Jesus wearing Herod's royal robe to the cross. And the contradictions between the elegant robe of Herod, and the scarlet robe of the mocking Roman soldiers, simply vanished.



Now, when Jesus was brought to the cross ...

They gave Him **sour wine** [oxos: vinegar] **mingled with gall** to drink. [(Greek *cholē*) a bitter narcotic used to sedate prisoners while attaching them] **But when He had tasted it,** [and realized it contained gall] **He would not drink.** – Matthew 27:34 NKJ

Whereas, Mark says ...

Then they gave Him **wine** [oinos: wine] **mingled with myrrh** to drink, [(*smyrnizō*) used to give wine a better fragrance and flavor] **but He did not take it.** – Mark 15:23 NKJ

And the critics cry "Contradiction!"

Matthew says it was oxos/vinegar; Mark says oinos/wine. Matthew says it was mixed with gall; Mark says myrrh. Matthew says He tasted it; Mark says He refused it.

And the theologians, like Thayer's Greek Lexicon, say: *Since the ancients used to infuse myrrh into wine in order to give it a more agreeable fragrance and flavor, we must in this matter accept Matthew's account as by far the more probable.*

[No! Peter says] Know this **first of all**, that **no** prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's **own interpretation** ... – 2 Peter 1:20 NAS

Why can't both be true and Isaiah be right?

In that day the Lord of hosts will be for a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty to the remnant of His people ... But they also have erred through **wine**, **[God's wine of confusion and wrath (Ps 60:3, 75:8; Jer 25:15-27)]** **and** through **intoxicating drink** **[the "water of gall" God gave 'em to drink (Jer 8:14, 9:15, 23:15)]** are out of the way ... they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filth; no place is clean. Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? **Those just weaned from milk?** **[Yes! His children. For we must become like children to play His matching game of seek and find]** ... For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little. For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said, "This is the rest with which you may cause the weary to rest," ... yet they would not hear. – Isaiah 28:5-12 NKJ

Because they won't play His matching game of seek and find.



Without understanding their purpose nobody weaves the pieces. And, the noise of all those separate stories saying seemingly unrelated things appears chaotic and confusing.

But, when we apply Isaiah's principle of gathering and weaving the seemingly unconnected pieces, they tell an incredible story.

Same goes for you and me and the chaos of our lives.

So, we can leave 'em in the dark or weave 'em in the light.

That trip to the carwash wasn't just a trip to the carwash. Join it to the trip to your mother-in-law's, and you suddenly find that patience and humility was the theme of the week.

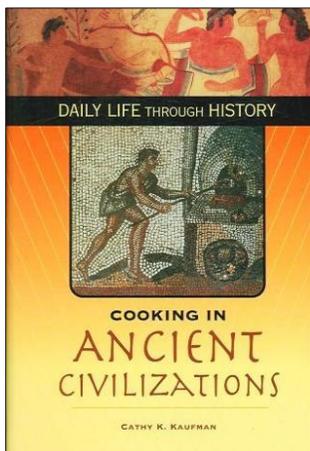
There's a created purpose to your God-ordained pieces. But, you have to watch for 'em and ask Him about 'em. **Life is not a series of unfortunate, unrelated, events.** What looks like mistakes is a grand story just waiting to be revealed: Rebelliousness finds redemption! Tragedy turns to triumph! Self-centered so-and-so receives servant's heart! You might say, **"But, I'm missing that second half."** **Then your story isn't finished yet, is it! So, get a move on.**

They may have been big mistakes when they happened. But that was *then*.

Now they're just waitin' to be woven to be glorifyin' God!



Matthew uses the word “oxos”. **It was the energy drink of the Roman army.** Water mixed with wine vinegar to kill bacteria and prevent scurvy; and honey and coriander for nutrition.



[This tragic moment in Jesus’ life is foretold in Psalm 69] Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none ... They put **gall** [Heb. *ro'sh: venom; poison; opium*] **in my food** and gave me **vinegar for my thirst**. – Psalm 69:20-21 NIV

Oxos was regarded as both food and water.

The soldiers [who had mocked him at Pilate’s palace] also mocked Him, coming and offering Him **sour wine** [oxos] – Luke 23:36 NKJ

Oxos *without gall* was used to hydrate their victims to keep ‘em suffering as long as possible. *“Drink up; you’ll need your strength!”*



Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!” Now a vessel full of **sour wine** [oxos] was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with **sour wine**, [oxos] put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the **sour wine**, [oxos] He said, “It is finished!” – John 19:28-30a NKJ

Jesus had no problem drinking *untainted* oxos. But, when they were first hanging the men on their crosses, and Jesus spit out the drugged oxos, they tried to liquor Him up.

Then they gave Him **wine** [oinos: wine] **mingled with myrrh to drink**, [(smyrnizō) used to give wine a better fragrance and flavor] **but He did not take it.** – Mark 15:23 NKJ

Why? Well, just the night before at the end of the Last Supper ...



He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. **For this is My blood of the new covenant**, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, **I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.**” – Matthew 26:27-29 NKJ

And at the cross, Jesus didn’t need to *taste* the *second drink* to know that it was wine; He could smell the fragrant myrrh. And, **He was preoccupied at that moment making the wine of the New Covenant in His own blood mingled with his righteousness**, which is symbolized in God’s Word with the scent of myrrh.

I recite my verses for the king; ... clothe yourself with splendor and majesty. In your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness; ... Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever ... All your robes are fragrant with myrrh ... – Psalm 45:1-8 NIV

Do you remember Jesus’ very first public miracle?

The mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” Jesus said to her, “... *My hour* has not yet come.” ... [So He called for] **six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews** [you know, from the Law. And after Jesus turned the *Old Covenant* cleansing water into wine] ... the master of the feast called the *bridegroom*. And he said to him, “Every man at the **beginning** sets out the *good wine* ... You have kept the *good wine* until *now!*” This **beginning** of signs Jesus did in Cana ... – John 2:3b-11 NKJ

Ever wonder why Jesus made wine for these unaware wedding guests who already had enough to drink? *Well* ... it *wasn't* a blessing.

You have made us *drink* the *wine* of *confusion*. – Psalm 60:3b NKJ

For in the hand of the Lord there *is* a *cup*, and the *wine* is *red*; it is *fully mixed* ... surely its *dregs* shall all the *wicked* of the earth *drain* and *drink down*. – Psalm 75:8 NKJ

For thus says the Lord ... to me [Jeremiah]: “Take this *wine cup* of *fury* from My hand, and cause all the nations ... to *drink it*. And they will *drink* and *stagger* and *go mad* because of the *sword* that I will send among them.” [The “*wine cup*” is His Word] Then I took the *cup* ... and made all the nations *drink* ... ‘*Drink, be drunk, and vomit! Fall and rise no more* ...’ – Jer 25:15-27 NKJ

And [Jesus] knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if it is Your will, *take this cup away from Me*; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” – Luke 22:41-42 NKJ

Hear this, you afflicted one, made *drunk*, but *not with wine*. This is what your Sovereign Lord says, your God, who *defends* his people: “See, *I have taken out of your hand* the *cup* that made you *stagger*; from that *cup*, the *goblet* of my *wrath*, you will *never drink again*.” – Isaiah 51:17, 21-22 NIV

Awake, awake! Rise up ... you who have *drunk* from the hand of the Lord the *cup* of his *wrath*, you who have *drained* to its *dregs* the *goblet* that makes men *stagger*. – Isaiah 51:17 NIV

Walk as children of *light* ... “*Awake, you who sleep, Arise* from the dead, and Christ will give you *light*.” See then that *you walk* **circumspectly** [exactly; accurately; diligently] ... And **do not be drunk with wine**, in which is **dissipation** [indulgence and negligence]; but **be filled with the Spirit** ... – Ephesians 5:8b-19 NKJ



Talk about keeping the Good Wine till the *end!* In His *first* public miracle, **Jesus turned the stagnant cleansing water of the Law into wine**, saying “*My hour* has not yet come.” In His *last public miracle*, when His *hour* as Bridegroom came, **He turned the blood of righteousness into the wine of living water**.



What're the hidden stories in your life?

As for him who lacks understanding, [wisdom] says to him, “*Come* ... *drink* of the *wine* I have *mixed*. Forsake *foolishness* and *live*, and go in the *way of understanding*. – Proverbs 9:4b-6 NKJ

Answer the call and free Him to work it all to the good.

Otherwise it ends up just being a series of unfortunate events.