

I Thirst (5 of 7)

John 19:28-29

This morning as we continue our study on the sayings that our blessed Lord uttered from the cross, we come to the 5th of these proclamations. This one is somewhat difficult to comprehend, yet it sheds great light upon the sovereignty and mercy of Christ in His dying moments.

As I pondered this saying, I was aware that Jesus cried of thirst because He was truly thirsty. Our minds have a hard time embracing such a thought. Christ was the One who created the streams, rivers, lakes, and even the vast oceans. The first miracle that Jesus performed, He turned the water into wine. On two different occasions Jesus declared that those who drank of His living water would never thirst again. **Jn.4:14 – But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Jn.6:35 – And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**

He is the source and supply of that living water and yet upon the cross, He cried, **I thirst.** I want to take a few moments to consider this passage and the **truth** it reveals as we think on the statement: **I Thirst.**

I. The Sovereignty of Christ (28a) – **After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.** These few words reveal much concerning His sovereignty. Notice:

A. His Character – Jesus knew that all things were now **accomplished**. That has to do with *“bringing to a close, to finish, complete, fulfill; to carry out the command given.”* This reveals His divine omniscience. He had endured hours of unspeakable torment and suffering and yet He remained coherent and aware that the will of God was being fulfilled.

▪ Humanity had no comprehension of the enormity of Calvary. They had not grasped the plan of God to redeem fallen man. They had no understanding of the absolute holiness of Christ and the sacrifice that He made to restore and reconcile the lost. Only God the Father and Christ Himself were aware that the will of God was being fulfilled at Calvary.

B. His Commitment – **Jesus knew that all things were now accomplished.** He had not side stepped any of His responsibilities. He had not sought to avoid the cross. He fully submitted Himself to the will of God and endured till the end. Every detail of Calvary was fulfilled as God had planned.

- Aren't you glad that Jesus endured till the end? Aren't you glad that He ensured that all things were accomplished on the cross? I'm glad that it isn't up to me to endure long enough or live good enough to merit my salvation. Jesus did that so that I could simply believe on Him and His finished work!

- I stand amazed at all that Jesus endured during the process of the crucifixion and yet He was faithful till the end. He could've refused the cross. He could've called out for the angels of heaven to have rescued Him, but He didn't. He endured it all, till all things were accomplished for our salvation!

- That ought to challenge us today. Jesus was willing to endure all of that, remaining committed until the end, and yet we have trouble remaining committed in the day to day things of life. Is it too much to ask to live as upright as we can? Is it too much to ask for us to pray and fellowship with Him? Is it too much to ask to identify with the One who suffered for our redemption? Is it too much to ask to remain faithful to attend His house and encourage those of like faith? I think we need to examine our commitment!

C. His Control – Jesus was not a victim of the cross. He was not there at the will and desire of sinful men. His life was not taken at Calvary; He willingly laid it down so that we might have life. Jesus was not a helpless victim, but a willing Savior.

- By all outward appearances it may have seemed as if the Sanhedrin, the multitude, and the Roman soldiers were the ones in charge, but Jesus never lost His authority. He remained in absolute control even as He endured the cross. This was not a situation that had gotten out of hand. We have not read of a man that lost his influence and failed to achieve his goals. Jesus was there because He chose to be and He was in complete control even as He hung upon the cross.

- That ought to encourage us in the journey today. He remained in control on the cross, just as He did upon the stormy seas. He never ceased to be God and He never will. There is not a problem that we face that Christ isn't the master of!

I. The Sovereignty of Christ (28a)

II. The Submission of Christ – Even in the simplest of words, we see the submission of Jesus as He was crucified. Consider:

A. The Responsibility of His Thirst – All things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled. Jesus came to do the will of the Father; He came to fulfill each and every prophecy that had been given concerning the crucifixion. There was no escape from His thirst at Calvary; it was all within the divine ordinance of God. Ps.69:21 – They gave me also gall for

my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. Jn.6:38 – For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. Acts 2:23 – Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

- Keep in mind that Jesus is the living Word, Jn.1:1. Can you imagine knowing all of this, prior to it ever being inspired in the heart of a man to pen down on the page, and yet being willing to submit fully to the will of God so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled? Jesus did that and He did that for you and me. He completely and entirely fulfilled the Scriptures in every aspect. There was not a single word prophesied concerning His birth, life, death, or resurrection that He did not fulfill.

B. The Reality of His Thirst – Much can be said in regard to the thirst of Jesus upon the cross. The main focus was to fulfill the Scriptures, and in essence the will of God, but we cannot deny or overlook the physical aspect of this thirst. Jesus was wholly God, but we must not forget that He too was wholly man. He lived in a body of flesh just like each of us. He knew what it was to experience pain, to feel loneliness and anger; Jesus felt the same emotions and experienced the same feelings that we do!

- He had already endured hours upon that cruel cross. He had received no water. His flesh had been torn from His body as He endured the awful scourging. His body was bleeding and losing precious fluids and yet He received no water. We cannot comprehend or fully appreciate the physical and emotional suffering that Christ endured. Phil.2:8 – And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Heb.2:9 – But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

I. The Sovereignty of Christ (28a)

II. The Submission of Christ

III. The Sympathy of Christ (28) – After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. He endured a physical thirst, but in this humble cry from our Lord we see His sympathy for those who thirst spiritually.

A. The Message – Jesus has endured the sins of the world being placed upon Him as He suffered the judgment of God, and yet He thirsted. This reveals a powerful truth that sin can never satisfy. It never quenches the thirst of a parched soul. Mankind can indulge in every sin imaginable and it will never fill that longing within the soul; it will never provide the satisfaction

they seek. Jer.2:13 – For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

B. The Misery – We cannot imagine the suffering that Jesus endured while hanging there upon the cross. The physical suffering was worse than any man had ever bore, but that wasn't the worst. The physical thirst that Jesus endured could not compare to the thirst He had for fellowship with God. This was the first and only time that He experienced separation from the Father.

- Jesus proclaimed a great truth in this statement: Separation from God will always result in misery. Man may enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, but that will always result in death and separation. The thirst for a literal drink of water in hell will be overwhelming, but the thirst for the presence of God will be the most excruciating!

- Ps.42:1-2 – As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. [2] My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? Jesus is the only One who can satisfy the thirsty soul. If you have never drunk from His eternal fountain, then your soul will remain in thirst.

I. The Sovereignty of Christ (28a)

II. The Submission of Christ

III. The Sympathy of Christ (28)

IV. The Scrutiny of the Crowd (29) – Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. As Christ, the Son of the living God, died upon the cross a multitude looked on, but they failed to see the significance of what they experienced. They failed to realize that God had offered Himself for them.

A. Their Blindness – As the multitude looked on that day they failed to recognize the fullness of Jesus' suffering. They saw simply a man condemned to die, suffering under the load of his punishment, which thirsted for water to drink. They never realized that the spiritual thirst was far greater than the physical thirst.

- It has been some 2,000 years since that faithful day and little has changed. Many consider the cross and their minds are consumed only with the physical aspect of it. I am in no way making light of what Jesus endured, but if that is all we see, then we have missed it. Christ endured much physically, but He endured more spiritually. He suffered separation from the Father so that we never would have to.

- Even when it comes to the lives we live, most only focus on the physical. Society is driven by the needs and desires of the flesh. Even our prayer time focuses more on physical needs than spiritual ones. This body of flesh will return to the dust of the earth, but the soul shall dwell for eternity!

B. Their Weakness – I would like to think that there were those who had sympathy for Jesus as He suffered upon the cross. Surely some were moved to help Him in any way they could, but sadly all they could do was try and comfort His physical suffering. Man was limited in what he could do while our Lord was dying.

- The same is true regarding humanity today. We have come a long way in medical advances. Our lives enjoy many comforts that former generations knew nothing of, but man is limited in his ability. There is only so much that we can do. Science may have discovered ways to prolong life or ease the suffering of death, but they have not discovered a way to prevent it. Through advancements in technology the world has greater access to literature and information, but all the knowledge in the world will not prevent death.

- Man has much to offer that benefits others, but he cannot offer the one thing that everyone needs the most. We all need to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. He alone has the power and ability to transform a life from sin and condemnation to salvation and reconciliation.

Have you discovered your weakness? Have you acknowledged your need for Christ? All that He endured upon the cross was for you! I can pray for you and encourage you, but I cannot save you. If you have never trusted in the Lord, you are lacking. There will come a day when your time is up and the only thing that will matter is whether you have been saved or not.

Jesus said much in just two words. Do you need to come to Him today? If He has spoken to you, now is the time to respond.