

Series: John
Title: I Thirst!
Text: Jn 19: 28-30
Date: Feb 9, 2023
Place: SGBC, NJ

John 19: 28: After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

Stop at this word "After this." Our salvation is in these two words. Around noon time, our Lord looked down from the cross and commanded John to care of his mother. At that hour John left the cross and took Mary to his house. Then darkness came upon the earth for 3 hours.

Matthew 27:45: Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

Our Substitute suffered in silence in total darkness. He patiently bore soul agony as the Father hid his face from him in justice. We learn from the psalms, that having been made sin, our Substitute owned our sins as his own. It seems from the psalms that the full sense of guilt and divine wrath was upon his conscience. This is what caused him to thirst.

Psalm 69: 1: Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto *my* soul. 2: I sink in deep mire, where *there is* no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. 3: I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God.

Then...

Matthew 27: 46: And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

He cried this around three o'clock in the afternoon, which was about the time they killed and offered the daily sacrifice--Christ is the Lamb they all pointed unto. One reason, he cried this is for the benefit of his people. Let's hear the Lord Jesus declare the reason.

Psalm 22: 3: But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel...6: But I *am* a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people...9: But thou *art* he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope *when I was* upon my mother's breasts. 10: I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou *art* my God from my mother's belly...14: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. 15: My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

In perfect faith he drank the bitter cup to the last drop.

John 19: 28: After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

He knew all things were now accomplished. The Lord Jesus Christ made an end of the transgression for God's elect. He made an end of the sins of his people. The GodMan by laying down his life brought in everlasting righteousness for us. God is just; his law honored; his elect died in Christ. And God is Justifier; God justified us; the Lord Jesus accomplished it. Then the Lord Jesus, knowing it was accomplished, said, "I thirst."

John 19: 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.

He said "I thirst" that the scripture might be fulfilled. Christ fulfilled all the law and the prophets. But we cannot imagine how he must have thirsted.

John 19: 30: When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

He finished the work the Father gave him. The glory of God is in that word, "It is finished!" The salvation of his people is in those three words. No man took his life. He bowed his head and gave up the ghost.

Proposition: The chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes each of his elect are healed.

He was forsaken of God so that we shall never be forsaken of God. And because our Lord Jesus said, "I thirst"--because Christ suffering all this for us--our gracious Savior will not let one for whom he died go without our thirst being quenched by him.

THIRSTING

Matthew 5: 6: Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

The word "righteousness" includes all spiritual blessings. All spiritual blessings are given through our Lord Jesus. By his grace, our Lord makes our thirst to be after Christ Jesus, the LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

We are not thirsty by nature, except for sin and this world. We have no water, no life, by nature we are not thirsty for the living water. We come into this world thirsty for polluted waters.

Jeremiah 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.

Natural man hears Christ preached again and says, "Oh no, not again! I am not thirsty for this! We loath this light bread." They want the garlic and leaks and waters of Egypt. But the Lord Jesus makes his children cry, "I thirst."

When someone speaks of thirsting, doesn't it make you thirsty? Christ sends us the gospel and makes thirsty. By making us behold him on the cross, parched and dry suffering in the room and stead of his people, by the Spirit of God, he makes us thirsty for him, for his righteousness! The gospel of Christ is a well of life. Christ Jesus, the Righteous Man, is the Preacher who comes through his preacher, preaching the gospel into our hearts.

Proverbs 10: 11: The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life;

Proverbs 18: 4: The words of a man's mouth *are as* deep waters, *and* the wellspring of wisdom *as* a flowing brook.

It takes the Spirit of God to make us hear the gospel. Only the Spirit of God can reveal our fall in Adam. Only God can reveal our sin-nature and our sin and our guilt to make us thirsty for the living Water. He dries up our man-made wells. The Lord makes us parched and dry with no way to quench our thirst. God's hand is not as heavy on us as it was our Redeemer--but heavy enough to make us thirsty.

Psalm 32: 4: For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

Oh, may Christ be the one speaking to you now! May God make you thirsty for Christ alone!

John 4:10: Jesus answered [the woman at the well], If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water....13: Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 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.

Is anyone here thirsty? Has Christ made you see that you have no life in anything of self or of this world? Are you thirsting for true Water, for Living Water, for Christ our Righteousness?

THIRST QUENCHED

Our Lord Jesus quenches our thirst. But Christ quenches our thirst, not with gall and vinegar, but with the water of life. That is the very reason Christ suffered in place of his people. He thirsted under God's fierce wrath and cried, "I thirst" that he might give us water, life, righteousness and quench our thirst. Christ is the Smitten Rock.

Exodus 17: 6:...and thou [Moses, the law] shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink.

God's purpose in smiting his Son was so that his people might drink. The Rock was smitten for Israel; Christ was smitten for God's elect Israel. Christ being smitten of God justified his people so that the Water of Life is given to his people freely.

Psalm 105: 41: He opened the Rock, and the waters gushed out: they ran in the dry places like a river. 42: For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant.

Isaiah 32:2: And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

A well gets its water from a hidden fountain within or from the rain from above. Spiritually, when we are made thirsty, it is because God has created a hidden fountain within by the Spirit. The showers of blessing have come down upon us already and we don't even know it yet. We become so thirsty. The gospel becomes good news to us.

Proverbs 25: 25: As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

The thirsty sinner find himself believing Christ, we find ourselves crying out from the depths of our heart.

Psalm 42:2: My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

Psalm 63:1 O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

We begin to hear Christ say in our hearts, saying,

John 7:37: If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. (without money, without price) 38: He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (Isaiah 55: 1)

Christ is the fountain of living waters. He is Life! He gives the Water of life freely to all that believe on him. The Spirit make us hear Christ declare that he is our righteousness. It is Christ who did the work with and sanctified us to himself. Through his gift of faith...he shows us

Revelation 22: 1:...a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Isaiah 35:7: And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

For the first time, we stop boasting of ourselves and we honor God in the *obedience of faith*. The obedience of faith is we cast all our care on Christ trusting that Christ's obedience alone made us righteous. We praise and glorify God for his free, unmerited, grace to us. He said this would be the effect he would work in his people.

Isaiah 43:20: The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.

Our Lord Jesus promised we shall never go thirsty again.

John 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.

ONGOING THIRST QUENCHED

When God gives us life and faith IN Christ, our thirst is quenched. Christ said he shall never thirst. We have peace with God, acceptance with God. But it is not that we never thirst again for him. We do.

I know I have water in my fridge. I will not thirst. I have it available. I drank it yesterday and today and I thirst for it again tomorrow. But if I run out I know I can go to the store and get more.

When we read Psalm 22 and others, we hear Christ thirsting. But we also hear a believer, David, thirsting. Believer, don't you thirst after Christ? We thirst for his gospel. We thirst to know him more. We thirst to be conformed to him. We thirst to be saved from our sin-nature. We thirst to walk in holiness honoring him. Every believer, who thirst has been quenched by Christ, is thirsty today in our soul for Christ!

Psalm 143:6: I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah.

Christ promised we shall be filled. Our thirst shall be quenched the rest of our days.

Isaiah 41: 17: *When* the poor and needy seek water, and *there is* none, *and* their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, *I* the God of Israel will not forsake them. 18: I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

God promised that by setting up Christ our David over us to be our one Shepherd over his church. He shall rain down waters of blessing upon us.

Ezekiel 34: 26: And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

Revelation 7:16: They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17: For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Isaiah 58:11: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Isaiah 12:3: Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Also, we become thirsty wondering if the Lord will call out any more of his sheep. But he shall quench this thirst, too!

Isaiah 44: 2: Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. 3: For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: 4: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses.

A well provides water to others. God gave us this water to give to others. Only a believer who God daily teaches that our body of death is dry and Christ is Life is capable of teaching others that the flesh profits nothing, that Christ alone quenches the weary soul.

We see why our Lord said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness...for they shall be filled." Brethren, everything in this world that begins looking like an oasis will prove a mirage. God will keep us going to Christ the Fountain of living Waters. I believe his word. He shall!

Amen!