

And He says, "I thirst". Now there are 2 or 3 things about this that I should like for us to notice here. There are not trifles now do they come by accident but they will tell us much about the suffering the nature of the suffering, and about the peace which Jesus wrought out on the cross. It was an hour of the deepest darkness that ever rested over the earth. There are 3 things that I would like for us to notice. First, the thirst, second, the cry; third the answer.

I. The Thirst

He was human and He was divine. It was of course humanity that thirsted. Christ's humanity was perfect, but that only made it more sensitive. It made Him alive to suffering so that His hunger, His thirst, His weariness were more real and intense. This caused His suffering harder to bear because He was perfect humanity. The perfection of humanity implies the perfection of suffering. Had there been one taint of imperfection about either the body of soul of Jesus He could not have tasted the whole bitterness of our anguish, he could not have drained our cup, He could not have paid our penalty, He could not have felt the extremity of thirst.

Christ was still with the Spirit without measure

INTRODUCTION: We come back tonight and take our place by the cross to simply consider one incident. He knew that it was finished, that He had fulfilled the Scripture, Psalms 69:21, and He said, "I thirst", and a bowful of vinegar placed there was soaked into a sponge on the end of a reed was touched to His lips. Thus we see something of the Christ that was paid for our peace and how we wish that all people might find this peace of mind and heart because of the price that has been paid. In a book on "Win over Worry", Mrs. Monroe of Darlington, Maryland is the simple character of the story and it centered around her 8 children. One day Mrs. Monroe came home from the grocery store and saw 5 of her children intensely interested in something. Closer observation verified her as she saw that they were playing with several cute little skunks. She screamed at the top of her voice, "Children, run." And each kid grabbed a skunk and ran. Her frantic screams frightened them so much that they squeezed the skunks and skunks simply do not like to be squized. Now we will refrain from telling you the rest of the story, but when we think of Peace, we think of the price that Jesus paid that He did not run away from this task but that He met it on the cross. Every major nation on earth today has a war department but no nation on earth anywhere cares much about a peace department.



It was Dr. Lee who once said, "If all the tranquilizers were taken from America, there would be such a national nervous breakdown that there would not be enough well people to take care of the sick people.

At the (American Baptist Convention) 2 years ago someone said, "The difference between the first century and the twentieth is that Paul was appealing while Peale is appalling!" While I greatly love and respect Dr. Peale for his truthful teaching of the power of God in human life, I do not particularly care about the little pealings who say that a good time will had by all if everybody will just look real glad. Someone else has said that they hope the American people leave something as a (monument for civilization) beside asphalt roads and lost golf balls.

But we see Jesus slumping on the cross and straining to the limit in hatred for our sins. This is our God. Either we must give up sin or give up hope. He is our peace. He is the one who paid the price for it. We see the six horrible hours on the hated tree rapidly drawing to a close. The mob is silent now being <sup>awed</sup> by the strange darkness which for 3 hours has settled about Calvary. Perhaps they are looking for some sort of relief but there left on the cross with the (sign) "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" we see our Saviour.

Standing (beneath the cross) is John and perhaps John has gone a little closer to the group of women and to the mother of Jesus for He has just received instruction that He should take her to his home to live. And we might also say here that we are indebted to this disciple for what he tells us about the event on the Day of the Cross. John's account tells us how that the mother was given and that how she was to be taken care of and John seems to blend his account with the account of the other 4 writers who are giving record also that he might supplant the others. (Throughout his gospel) he uses the phrase, "After this" or "After these things". He seems to indicate that he is joining his account with that of Matthew and of Luke at a given point. And though they may have been present there at the cross when Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?" And yet somehow we are prone to think of it as a cry of physical exhaustion while that may be true in one sense there is a far deeper meaning involved in it for here we see that He is drained dry of physical strength by the terrific struggle. It was not a cry in the midst of the contest but it was a cry after the battle was over. It was a cry of victory. After this Jesus knowing that all things had been finished; after this He refers to Jesus' word of conquest that all things had been finished.



mysterious realm of Satan and there He had won the conquest. His exhausted body is still fastened to the cross, His tongue has been parched by the very fires of Hell, Luke 16:24. Maybe it was merely a whisper but God heard this cry.

An athlete in the midst of a race thinks of only one thing, the job to be done while his is running he does not concentrate upon his thirst. He is concentrating only with being true to the trust that others have placed on him. After the victory is won, he needs no longer to think about the race and so here is Jesus in the midst of the struggle for the eternal Saviour and He knowing that all things were now accomplished He asked for a drink of water.

I might pause here to say that Jesus has given us the example when He faced the temptation in the wilderness and fasted for 40 days. He was not conscious of hunger until towards the conclusion of those days. Even then He refused to provide bread for himself. No relief came until after the victory over Satan was won. I believe this is why the apostle said to Timothy, II Timothy 2:3&5 "Therefore endure hardnesses as a good soldier of

in a way that and to an extent such as no other man ever was or could be. Yet this did not exempt Him from pain but on the other hand this made His thirst more real with that Spirit He was filled. By the Spirit He was strengthened, by that Eternal Spirit He offered Himself without spot to God. The indwelling of the Spirit in Him added to His perfection and every addition to His perfection was an increase to His sufferings so that He felt pain more than we do. He felt weariness, hunger, thirst more than we can.

He was God Man. Every time we think about this we almost have difficulty in apprehending this glorious truth that Christ was God and Man at the same time. But this did not do away with His sufferings. It seems only to make Him the real target for His enemies as the sinner-substitute.

How true was the humanity of Jesus that thirst proclaims Him truly a man in body and in soul a man, in sorrow and in joy, a man; that which was divine in His person made that which was human more thoroughly human. No mere man could have passed through Gethsemane and Golgotha, could have endured the agony of the One and the thirst of the other without being destroyed.



We have thought to emphasize the humanity of Jesus in the light of the crucifixion. This is not to discredit it in any sense His deity. It only emphasizes His (the depth) to which Jesus went for our salvation. He did not walk across the stage of life as a play-actor pretending to be what He was not. (Hebrews 2:17<sup>18</sup>) says, "In all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren that He might be merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." His complete identity with us of the cross and this is seen in our Lord's word "I thirst."

Here humanity persevered even to the tomb and beyond. One evidence of this is His physical agony after His physical conquest of sin. His most intense physical suffering was thirst. He had known thirst before.

For we read in (John 4:7) that one day that He stopped in the midst of a journey and talked to a Samaritan woman. There He said, "Give me to drink." He doubtless was thirsty many times but on the cross this was a thirst indeed.

What a thirst it was the most demanding need of

the human body is for water. Man may live many days without food. An Irishman, named McSwenney lived for 63 days without a bite of food, but man can live for only a matter of hours without water. This is true even under normal circumstances. The case of crucifixion hour was the greatest torture of all when we think of thirst.

It had been (many hours) since Jesus had quenched His thirst. Perhaps the last liquid He had sipped was that at the last Supper, perhaps 18 hours before His cry of the cross.

We must also remember that He went through the sweat in the (Garden of Gethsemanes) where He shed drops of blood. Then the strain of the trial and the rugged trip through the hills, all of this was taking away the (moisture) out of His body and then He was nailed to the cross and His exposed body was open to the sunlight. Thirst, indeed, is used in medical reports in connection with fever. The mounting of fever with accompanied Jesus' suffering made His (thirst unbearable). The wounds in His hands and His feet.

All of this Jesus gave one thought to His physical suffering because He had descended into the



clothes of Jesus, Psalm 22:7 that they would mock Him, in Psalm 22:16 that they pierced His hands and His feet, 22:14 that His life flowed out like water. Over and over again we discover that He fulfilled all of these prophecies that the scripture might be fulfilled, which ~~said~~ saith, "I thirst". That He had reached His goal. That the thirst was real.

God gave to them this new evidence as to the nature of His Son how much more has He given to us? If they harden their hearts unto damnation shall we expecte less if we refuse Him who is full of grace and truth? <sup>Where</sup> ~~Where~~ I would have stood that day is a question for me tonight.? Where would you have stood? And today as I think of those who are slow of heart to believe, we still think of the cross and we still think of ~~the~~ Lamentations 1:12 we <sup>think</sup> still ~~of~~ the cross and we still think of ~~Lamentatio~~ "Is it nothing to you all that pass by?"

And what does this mean? It means His thirst as the sinner's substitute for He suffers the just for the unjust. He thirsts that we might not thirst. He parched that we might not be parched.

## II. The Cry

The cry "I thirst" or "I am thirsty".

Jesus Christ, no man that wareth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life that he may please Him who has chosen him to be a soldier".

The reason why we win so few victories for Christ is because our chief or first concern is our own safety and security. All of us would wear the victors crown if it were not for the price and self-sacrifice which we must pay for the privilege.

But Jesus said that only as we are faithful even to the point of dying if need be, may we receive from Him a crown of life, Revelation 2:10.

We remember that Judas looked to Jesus and said, "what can Jesus do for Me?" But when Mary of Bethany sent the same certainty of the cross that Jesus was going to die on the cross she asked, "What can I do for Jesus?" How many people since that day have said, "what can He do for me?" rather than "what can I do for Him?" John here gives us one reason for this word, "That the scripture might be fulfilled." In reality we see that John was looking in 2 directions.

John was looking into the fulfillment of prophecy that had taken place in the past and also the



shadow of the future. We see that the Old Testament  
abounds the symbolic shadows, Hebrews 8:5, 10:1

There was a prophecy of the utterance concerning the  
 Messiah and Jesus came He declared that it was His  
 purpose to ~~not~~ (not to destroy but to fulfill) them.

Matthew 5:7. He wanted His will to blend in with the  
Father. "Lo," he says, "I come in the volume of the  
 book it is written of me. I delight to do thy will  
 O God. Yea thy law is within my heart." Psalms 40:7

David noted that (God did not delight in burnt offerings  
and sacrifices ~~apart~~ apart from a pure heart.) And

we see that the important passages of the Old Testa-  
 ment scriptures point toward Jesus, the Messiah.

We also notice that in the gospels for example the  
 Old Testament is quoted many times. In Mark there  
 are 52 verses quoted, in 79 passages; In Matthew  
 there are 95 verses quoted, 163 passages; in Luke  
 there are 87 verses quoted, 150 passages; in John  
 there are 34 verses quoted, 49 passages. But all  
 of this helps us to see how Jesus fits in with  
 the Old Testament record that it might be fulfilled.

This belief we share by Jesus that His first  
 public appearance in Nazareth following His baptism,

Jesus says, "the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me and  
because He has anointed Me." We know that He began  
 His sermons to them by saying, "This day is this  
scripture fulfilled in your ears." Luke 4:18&21.

When Jesus was talking to the 2 on the road to  
Emmaus, after the resurrection, the Bible tells that  
 He talked to them about the scriptures, and He started  
 with Moses and all ~~of~~ the prophets. "These are the  
 words which I spake unto you ~~which~~ while I was yet  
 with you that all things must be fulfilled."

Therefore in the light of this statement, we  
 can understand better the significance of "I thirst."  
 It helps us to examine the evidence. We will find  
 that the scripture concerning the suffering servant  
 are here being fulfilled on the cross. David talked  
 about it in ~~ix~~ Psalms 69:21, "They gave me also gale  
for my meat and in my thirst, they gave me vinegar to  
drink." It has the (relation of the shadow.) We  
 repeat, this was not merely a drama performed by  
 actors from a prepared script. Only one person was  
 involved and that was Jesus. But although they  
 knew not what they did, they fulfilled with exactness  
 these events. Many, many years before in Psalms 22:18  
 it had been prophecied, the soldiers gambled for the



wounded fall in range of both armies the wounded man cannot get away nobody can go to him and all through the night the wounded cry out, "Water, water, water." Jesus' thirst on the cross must have been unspeakable in its description.

### III. The Answer

It seems that (God was silent) but (man answered) this plea and this call. God who feeds the young ravens when they cry. God who looks down upon the needy when they pray unto Him and yet His ear open at all times to the destitute and to the sorrowful in this moment, in this hour had to let His Son go through this time of suffering. What (terrible thirst) it must have been. The heat, the noise, the dust the pain, and yet this was the only cry of physical torment that Jesus uttered. And that was a suffering and yet we see that out on the edge here a great big hearted soldier rushed in and showed some pity. Perhaps you could not see this in his heart and in his life but he came forward with a bowl of vinegar and with a sponge and dipped it and touched it to the lips of Jesus.

I read of an (Irishman) who was rather crude and rough during the war but one day as they were marching

These are (common words among us). I am thirsty, says a (child) to it's mother. I am thirsty, says the (traveler) on the highway. I am thirsty, says the (sick man) in his bed of fever. We are familiar with the cry. We know that it will be met with a quick response for it is a cry for something that can easily and cheaply supplied in the majority of cases. And when such words come from the lips of the Son of God, the case is wholly different. God is over all the creator of the heaven and earth, the framer of all the (earth's fountains and streams) and yet we wonder how can this be? Whence does it arrive? What can it mean? Is this cry real? Is it a natural cry?

One thing strikes us much here. His is the (only cry heard at this time). There are two men on the crosses beside but they utter no cry. One is speaking evil, the other is now praying. But Jesus is uttering the cry, "I thirst". How great this thirst must have been.

Many, Many times (he said) "My soul is troubled, my soul is exceedingly sorrowful even unto death" But in these last moments he said, "I thirst". This has reference to the pain of His body while the others



are in grief, here He is waxing away crying, "I thirst". The cry was real anguish. It was terrible for it was the cry of God. It is a fearful they say to see strong men weep or hear strong men cry but here was one stronger than the strongest higher than the highest, the Son of God Himself constrained to give vent to His suffering in this piercing cry, "I thirst".

Terrible was that cry for it was a cry of one (sinking into death) under the condemnation of man's sin, under the weight of infinite guilt. It was the cry of one who was (subjected to the wrath) of Him who is a consuming fire.

Such was the cry of the ~~man~~ (substitute). It was not a mere man of Isreal throwing Himself down in despair beside a dried up well and uttering the cry "I thirst," but this was the cry of one who was suffering that awful agony who was paying a debt and this debt was being paid because of love. And He was willing to go through hunger and thirst and suffering for the blessed of the the redeemed. Those His Bride-elect that they might be saved. The awful cry as it was the expression of bodily anguish which was filling Him.

That awful cry as it was the (expression of bodily endurance) and as we think of this we shudder to think of what Hell must be like. What must be the unquenchable fire, what must be the everlasting thirst, what must be the weeping and the wailing and knashing of teeth. Have mercy upon me cries the rich man in Hell and said Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue for I am tormented in this flame. Luke 16:24. Such in the eternal thirst and such is it's awful utterance. The (scorching sun) is terrible. What must be an (eternity of thirst) in the heat of a devouring fire? The lost souls must thirst for ever because you ✓ have forsaken the fountain of Living Water. Some of you have (dug wells of your own) instead of drinking from the Living Water, Revelation 14:10. Jesus has gone down into death. (Physical death is the separation of the soul from the body, and spiritual death is the separation of the soul from God.) His words here "I thirst", His cry, shows that His soul was undergoing the pangs of Hell Just as the rich man lifted up his eyes in Hell. The flow of the blood from the open wound causes extreme anguish of thirst on the (battlefields) they tell us, where the



along they came by a group of displaced persons. There was a little child among them utterly lost. And this sinful, rought Irishman gave his fifle to a comrade picked up the little girl and garried her on his shoulders for miles and miles and miles. And there was a rough soldier who (moistened the lips) of my Lord with vinegar, who listened to His cry, and who answered that cry.

When Hagar cried out for thirst in the desert God sent an angel to lead her to an unseen well.

When Isreal cried at Marah "God sweetened the bitter waters for them."

When they cried at Hored he smote the rock and water came forth.

When Samson cried out in thirst, God opened the very jawbone which he had used as a weapon.

But now God answers not It is not Hagar or Isreal or Samson. It is not one of the greats of old who is calling Him. Knowing who came to Him while He was in Gethsemane, knowing who comes to Him to brign Him a cup of water all of heaven seems to stand off at a distance and watch.

This is the (hour of the power of darkness) He had (taken the sinner's place) and must bear the sinner's

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anguish, body and soul. He must die the sinner's death and immediately when Jesus had through exhaustion come to the end, he said, "It is finished." What glad tidings of great joy to us come forth. Not only from that thirst and the cry of the Son of God but from the silence of heaven. "It is finished" said the Son of earth. It would seem that Jesus was offered vinegar more than once, But we know here that it was not indeed a man's power to fully relieve this awful thirst. This was the Heir who had come and this was the One they said, "Let us kill him". Yes, God's answer to the cry of His Son is this, Raise Him from the dead, crown Him with glory and honor, exalt Him as the Prince of Peace as the Saviour, enable Him to give forgiveness and repentance to those who would turn unto Him. Yes, He thirsted that we might not thirst. He drained the cup that we might never taste of it. He was wounded that we might be healed. Let Him that is athirst come and whosoever will let him come and take of the Water of Life, freely. In John 4:10 Jesus talks about the Living Water. He talked about flowing rivers of Living Water in John 7:38. We are to become rivers of Living Water flowing into the parched deserts of men's souls.

The final word is "And the spirit and the bride they come and let him that heareth every Christian say come and let him that is athirst lost men come and whosoever will let him take the Water of Life freely."

Revelation 22:17.