

"I THIRST"

John 19:28

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Of the words uttered by Jesus while He was on the cross, the shortest are the ones of our text, "...*I thirst...*" Even while He was dying on the cross, what He had to say were words that were still teaching words and words that continued to reveal His humanity and divinity. So now these two short words speak of a human need, He was thirsty.

I. HIS BEING THIRSTY WAS A SIGN OF TRUE HUMANITY

1. Although Jesus was Lord of all, had created all, was the One who sent rain upon evil and good, had made the seas, the rivers, the springs, who had taken upon Himself the form of a "servant" and was made in the likeness of sinful man, now is crying out with a fainting voice, "...*I thirst...*"
 - How truly human Jesus was/is.
 - Jesus proved Himself to be a real person as He suffered the pains belonging to ordinary people.
 - Angels don't get thirsty.
 - Angels don't hurt and suffer physically.
 - Jesus did.
 - Jesus is brother to the poorest and most humble of all the human race.
 - Loss of blood, a fever caused by the wounds in His body from the nails, the weight of His body pulling the flesh from the nails, the extreme pain dried His mouth and His thirst was such as most other people would never know.
 - Jesus, as a man, escaped nothing that is associated with death.
2. Since Jesus endured so much on the cross, uttering those two words "...*I thirst...*", He can surely identify with our/mankind's weaknesses and hurts.
 - What can you/we possible face and even go through that Jesus has not experienced?
 - Let none of us think that what we face Jesus doesn't understand.
 - Who among us has the right to murmur and complain about what is happening to us?
 - Jesus was innocent, yet He was beaten, mocked, nailed to a cross and His body put through horrible pain and agony.
 - None of us are innocent for we are all sinners, deserving whatever is put upon us.
3. How can we not be ashamed of all we enjoy when Jesus had nothing?
 - Jesus placed Himself for our sakes into a position of shame and suffering and there was no one to help Him, and when He asked for a drink, He was given vinegar.
4. Whatever "cross" any of us may have to carry, let us remember that Jesus has already borne it before us. Jesus was innocent but yet He thirsted because of us.

II. HIS SUFFERING WAS A SIGN OF HIS BEING A SUBSTITUTE

1. Jesus came to make the way for man to be restored to God and therefore He must undergo the penalty of sin for all sinful man.
 - God, His Heavenly Father abandoned Him and now His body is in torture and He thirsts.

2. Because of man's appetite for sin, Jesus was put to death.
 - Adam ate of the forbidden tree.
 - All since Adam have had a desire for going contrary to God's will, thus sin.
 - Think about it, if Jesus had not thirsted, every one of us would still be far from God, still separated from Him with no hope of ever being restored and have a place in Heaven.
3. Jesus' being thirsty was a sign that He had defeated His last enemy, had borne the last pain and hurt.
 - The great agony of being forsaken by God was over.

III. THE CAUSE OF JESUS' THIRST IS TYPICAL OF HOW PEOPLE TREAT THE LORD

1. Mankind's philosophy is that gradually, generation after generation, people are getting wiser, finer and more noble and mankind is to be commended.
 - The tendency of mankind is to exalt man above God and give mankind the highest place.
 - God says that man is a fallen creature with a carnal mind and cannot be reconciled to Him, rendering evil for good and treating God with ingratitude.
 - When Jesus asked for a drink, what did man give Him? Vinegar, not water.
 - Universal mankind, left to itself, rejects, crucifies and mocks God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Beware of praising Jesus and denying His atoning sacrifice.
 - Beware of rendering Jesus recognition and dishonoring His name at the same time.
2. We shame those who gave vinegar to Jesus instead of water to drink.
 - Have we not also done the same thing?
 - We hurt when we think about what Jesus suffered, yet we do not turn from our sins.
 - We shed tears at His hurt and agony, but we grieve Him with our sins.
 - We say we love Him, but we don't change our lives for His sake nor put our trust in Him.
 - None of us are faultless.

IV. JESUS THIRSTED FOR MORE THAN A DRINK IN A SENSE

1. Jesus spent His short lifetime trying to save people. He thirsted for people to know the Heavenly Father as He did.
 - Remember as a child when separated from His parents and was found He told them, "*...wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?...*"
 - Jesus thirsted to set people free from their eternal damnation that hung over their heads.
 - At the moment of His thirst for something to drink, there remained but one more thing for Him to do and that was to actually die.
2. Jesus always had a thirst after the love of His people.
 - As Jesus thirsted for the people of His time, so He thirsts for fellowship with each of us today, not because we might do something for Him, but because of what He can do for us.
 - "*...Behold, I stand at the door and knock...*" What for? He wants to have fellowship with us.
 - Jesus is still thirsty because of His great love for everyone.
 - "*...Father, I will that they also whom thou has given me be with me where I am, that they may behold My glory...*"

V. JESUS' THIRST IS A PATTERN FOR HIS BELIEVERS/CHRISTIANS

1. Should not those who believe in Jesus also have a thirst?
 - A heavenly thirst, a craving for the Lord Jesus.
 - As Jesus thirsted for souls, so should those who believe in Him.
2. *"...As the hart panteth after the water brooks, our souls would thirst after thee, O God..."*
3. What Jesus went through for us to have salvation, be restored to God, to have eternal life should be a pattern for how we should be living our lives for Him.

CONCLUSION:

1. Fellow believers, let us thirst for the souls of others - Jesus did.
 - Have a longing to see people saved.
 - Fix your hearts upon some unsaved person and "thirst" until that person is saved.
 - Say as Paul did, *"...I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart, for I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh..."*
 - Paul would have sacrificed himself to save his countrymen...let this mine be in us also.
2. Let us thirst after perfection, hunger and thirst after righteousness.
 - Let us hate sin but thirst to be holy as God is holy.
 - Let us thirst to be like Jesus Christ.
3. Let us keep constantly in mind why Jesus uttered those two words *"...I thirst...."*