"I THIRST"

After this, Jesus knowing that all was now finished said, (to fulfill the Scripture), "I Thirst".

Thirst is a physical condition of the body which is a manifestation of a need of the person for water. Each person experiences thirst every day of his life to one degree or another. Thirst is a common symptom of the patient in the hospital, especially following surgical procedures where water may be withheld.

However, it does not seem to me that Jesus was calling out, "I thirst" because of a physical desire for water. Doubtless, this was part of His anguish but as we who are believers in the Way know, it was not just a physical and psychological death that Jesus was experiencing for us. It is the spiritual dimension of His suffering which is truly important to us today. Thousands have died in martyrdom, suffering physically and emotionally just as Jesus did. However, in the consideration of the Spirit which somehow encompasses His dying there for your sins and mine, herein lies the true and deepest consideration of this greatest of sacrifices in all history.

What was this thirst which He declared? Was it simply a calling out for water? Or was it a magnificent cry for living water which in washing in and through Him, would cleanse and purify you and me and all mankind who would thereafter ask for this cleansing? “Our sinful bodies may be made clean by His body, and our souls washed through His most precious blood” is a phrase Episcopaliants cherish in the prayer of humble access.

How does this cleansing occur? Somehow it all began at Calvary when Jesus shed His blood and His body was riven for our sakes. But we must also cry, "I thirst". Through His thirsting and then receiving by means of death and resurrection, He transmits His glory unto us today. The transforming power of His grace begins with Jesus thirsting and must then require our thirsting prior to fulfillment.

“Thou gavest Thy good Spirit to instruct them and didst not withhold Thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst”. (Nehemiah 9:20) God always satisfies the thirsting of His people. Those in the world system will always have an insatiable thirst which cannot be satisfied. “They go about naked, without clothing; hungry they carry the sheaves; among the olive rows of the wicked they make oil; they tread the wine presses but suffer thirst”. (Job 23:10, 11)

This is not so of those who are in Jesus. Their promise is “they shall feed along the ways, in all bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger nor thirst”. (Isaiah 49:9, 10) Jesus says, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied”. (Matthew 5:6) To the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall
give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life”. (John 4:13,14) This promise is to us today, but the gift comes to us at tremendous cost, the cost of our Savior’s life; His thirsting; His glorious sacrifice.

“In the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, if any man thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water. Now this He said about the Spirit, which those who believed in Him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified”. (John 7:37-39) Jesus was going through His glorification when He cried, “I thirst”. Now through Him and His thirsting we can cry out, “I thirst” and receive His salvation and His Holy Spirit. He has shown us The Way. Are we willing to ask, to receive and to walk in that Wondrous Way? It is up to you and me individually. What is your answer to Him?

“They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light upon them, nor any heat.”

“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”. (Revelation 7: 16, 17)

We would like to wish each of you a Blessed Easter.

MY EASTER WISH
May the glad dawn of Easter morn bring joy to thee.
May the calm eve of Easter leave a peace divine with thee.
May Easter night on thine heart write, O Christ, I live for Thee.

Please remember CMF with a gift at this time.

Dr. and Mrs. Reed would like to thank everyone for the many letters, cards, phone calls, and especially the many prayers. Dr. Bill has had two surgeries on his heart and is doing well, praise the Lord.
Kay is doing well also but still needs your prayers. God has been with both of them in a very special way at this Easter time.