

Reading: John 4:6-14

“I thirst!” (Jn 19:28)

Christ who told the woman of Samaria, “He who drinks the water that I give shall never thirst,” now on the cruel Cross cried, “I thirst!” After sweating blood in the Garden of Gethsemane, He was dragged to the rulers here and there. He was tortured by the Roman soldiers. He was flogged, and crowned with thorns. He bore the heavy Cross and staggered as He was led to Golgotha. All this resulted in this agonising thirst as He hung on the Cross with his torn body. He refused to accept the painkiller drink offered to Him. Thus He submitted Himself to consciously undergo anguish and suffering. Why did He suffer thus?

Christ thirsted that we might not thirst again. He was wounded for us so He might become an “open fountain” (Zech 13:1). The Shepherd was struck but He didn’t run away from the sheep. He leads them to “still waters” and satisfies them with “goodness and mercy” (Zech 13:7; Psa 23).

Jesus not only gives us living water but also plants a spring within us. He promises, “The water that I shall give you will become in you a fountain of water springing up unto everlasting life” (Jn 4:14b). The greatest problem of people without Christ is that nothing satisfies them. They try money but it fails. Money is like sea water. The more one drinks it the thirstier he becomes. Then they try sex; it doesn’t satisfy them. Then they start worshipping their achievements. They say to the work of their hands, “You are our gods” (Hos 14:3). But before long they are left disillusioned. Only the Cross is God’s plus sign; man is satisfied there. The earthly pleasures and treasures become worthless before the *Old Rugged Cross*.

On the Cross Christ gave away everything so we may have everything in Him. “Every spiritual blessing” is ours today (Eph 1:3). And “all our need” is supplied by Him (Phil 4:19). Even in the midst of trials and tears, deep beneath in our hearts there will be peace and satisfaction that pass all understanding. And a day will come when even our natural hunger for food will be removed (Rev 7:16). What a blessing because the Lamb of God was slain!

*See from His head, His hands, His feet—
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet;
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
(Isaac Watts, 1674-1748)*

MARCH 25

PRAYER

Subject: Discipleship

Reading: Jn 4:6-14

Memorising: Jn 19:28

"I thirst!"

O God of all creation, we worship You as the Fountain of living waters. We thank You for Your Son who gives the water of life freely to all who come to Him and believe on Him. You are the One who sends rain in its season. The rivers are Your creation. We thank You for the river that flows from Your throne to make our hearts joyful. You are the one who makes rivers even in the dry desert. But, O Lord, how much it hurts us to realize that Your Son cried for water while hanging on the Cross under hot sun!

Yes, Father, Your Son became thirsty that we may never thirst. More than His physical thirst, He was thirsty after souls of men and women to be saved from eternal fire. Give us, O God, the same passion for souls. Let our hearts melt for them with compassion. May we have a biting grief over the perishing souls! Grant us the excitement the woman at Samaria had that day with which she brought her villagers to the Source of living water.

Father God, forgive us for trying substitutes for our spiritual thirst. We confess that we are disappointed because nothing has satisfied us. Remove from us, O Lord, the thirst and lust for sensual pleasures. Everytime we seek them, we become more and more miserable. We are only chasing mirage. Save us from this meaningless race.

Father God, forgive us, we thirst and hunger more for riches than for righteousness. We endeavour more to please ourselves than to please You. We hunger and thirst more for men's applause than Your approval. We enjoy our pastimes more than our prayertime. At the end of the day we are disappointed that all our containers leak with cracks.

Dear Lord, forgive us for not sharing Your love with the unloved and the unlovable even after we drink plenty from Your fountain of love. Forgive us for not sharing the message of Your peace with those who live in chaos even though we drench ourselves in Your peace that flows like a river. Let's be channels of Your blessing to our parched communities.

O Lord of the Harvest, help us to readily and delightfully give a cup of cold water to Your servants labouring for You in adverse situations. Let us be liberal in refreshing the Missionaries. Help us, Lord, to be truly appreciative of their sacrificial labour as our representatives.

In the Name of Christ the Fountain of Life, we pray. Amen!

*(Jer 2:13; Jn 7:37-39; Zech 10:1; Psa 46:4; Isa 43:19; Jn 4:28-30; 19:28;
1 Tim 6:9; Gal 1:10; Isa 56:7; Mt 10:42)*