

The Fifth Word: Christ Identifies

"I am thirsty"

(John 19:28)

"...My tongue clings to my jaws..." (Psalm 22:15). **"...And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink"** (Psalm 69:21). Everything about the crucifixion fulfilled prophecy – right down to the physical thirst of Christ. He was fully God, but He was also fully man. In His death He identified with one of the most basic drives of the human body – the need to quench thirst. For Christ, this thirst was more than physical. The 5th word is attached to the 4th word in a powerful way.

In His God-forsaken state, Christ experienced all the hell that we deserved. Read **Luke 16:19-24**. This fifth word of Christ verifies that in the moment when He was forsaken by God, Jesus passed through the very fires of judgment and experienced the burning torment of hell. Like the rich man, an unbearable thirst coursed through His body. *"Had He not thirsted, every one of us would have thirsted forever in hell"* (Strauss).

When used of man, thirst is a picture of deep spiritual longing (Psalm 42:1ff). It expresses crucial needs. Read **John 4:7-15**. What is the woman's need? She has a deep spiritual thirst, but she is seeking to fill it in all the wrong ways. Going in and out of sordid and illicit relationships was her solution and it left her desperately thirsty. How like people today - looking for satisfaction in all the wrong ways and places!

What is the promise Jesus gives? Ironically, the One who suffered such severe thirst offers living water that completely and eternally quenches the spiritual thirst that throbs in our soul.

Make it personal: Take a cup and pour yourself a drink of cool water. Thank Jesus that He is your eternal Thirst Quencher. The sixth word awaits your meditation. Follow the **red** line.