

**Hinde Street Methodist Church**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019 - Good Friday Service

Rev Peter Cornick

***I am thirsty.***

Jesus had left Judea and was travelling through a Samaritan town called Sychar. Near to land Jacob had given to his son, Joseph. Jacob's well. Meeting a Samaritan woman by the well, Jesus says to her:

*'Give me a drink.'*

It is notable in that story, that Jesus is in a location where a Jewish Rabbi would feel wary; uncomfortable – even threatened. His request for water on that day, his drink, is directed to a woman. It is not customary for a Rabbi to be associating with a Samaritan woman. From this encounter, Jesus draws her to believe that he is the 'living water' – a spring gushing up to eternal life.

*'Sir, give me this water, that I may never be thirsty.'*

*I am thirsty.*

Jesus on the cross. Suffers thirst. Human thirst. Agony. Breath suffocated. Dryness. A human picture of this man on the cross. The Greek word, διψω {dip-sah'-o} means, to 'suffer thirst.' Jesus suffers – thirst.

Here, Jesus is neither wary or uncomfortable, nor is he threatened. The time for suspicion and anxiety about those who would hunt for him has long gone. Now, he is tortured, humiliated, crucified. Psalm 22 speaks of suffering.

*I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;  
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,*

*and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.*

Drink comes from the occupier, the despised, the crucifier. It is drink for thirst.

This drink is no living water. Wine vinegar; not brewed like alcohol, but a sour wine, much watered down. It is safe to drink on duty – and this Posca is drunk on duty by Roman soldiers rendering them neither drunk nor thirsty.

A sponge, such as Roman soldiers would carry to drink this wine themselves; tied to hyssop to reach up to the crucified.

Hyssop; used to spread the blood of the Passover lambs on the doorposts by those enslaved, so that the Lord would pass over the homes of the Israelite but strike down the Egyptians.

Psalm 69:

*They gave me poison for food,  
and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.*

*I am thirsty.*

... Pass over – take this cup of death from me.

... Behold the lamb of God.

Drink; a sacramental act. Ordinary drink signifying the eternal depths of God. How deep is the well of suffering on which God draws?

And the woman? Who met Jesus by Jacob's well? Or us, who meet him on the cross?

*'Sir, give me this water, that I may never be thirsty ... may never be without your living water, may never be without eternal life.*

*... may never 'suffer thirst.'*

The woman uses the same word, as Christ on the cross. She doesn't want to διψω {dip-sah'-o} ... 'suffer thirst' for this living water again.

*I am thirsty.*