

'Seven Last Words of Jesus'

Reflection 4

'I AM THIRSTY'

'I am thirsty,' Jesus' cry from the cross came from a physical thirst, yes. He was parched from the loss of blood, from sweating, from the pain. He longed to drink, and was offered only a thoughtless gesture, a sponge soaked in vinegar. A bitter gift for the One who had come 'to reveal God's great love for us.'

The greater pain though was the betrayal. The betrayal of Judas, of his friends, those who had supported Him. Those too who had only 'a few days ago hailed him with palms and song.' Those to whom He had given so much. 'He had loved them and He still did.'

Jesus 'thirsts' now, for you, for me. His cry 'I am thirsty' 'was the most personal and intimate of His 'Last Words' to us.' 'His human heart pined for all of us, and still does.'

So how can we respond? How can we quench the deep thirst of Jesus? He calls us 'to Come closer, linger on in prayer and listen.' To hear Him tell us how much He 'thirsts' for us.' He wants us to 'follow Him in our thoughts and prayers, then we too will begin to long for Him, to yearn, to pine, to thirst.' St. Mother Teresa spent her life quenching the thirst of Christ by serving the poor. For her, Jesus' thirst was a personal statement to each one of us, calling from us a response of love and service.

Our very presence here in Church shows our desire to love Jesus, to respond to Him. But maybe we too betray His love sometimes? Maybe we put other things before Him when we don't need to?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to put You first in my life.

Increase my desire for You.

Grant me the grace to quench Your aching thirst,

To love as You love, to serve as You serve.

Amen.



‘That word ‘I am Thirsty’ is of all the last words which He spoke on the cross the most personal and the most intimate. It is the revelation of God’s great love, at once warm and strong, for us, and for those of us also who have rejected Him or despised Him.’

This reflection is with reference to, and with quotations from ‘Seven Last Words,’ by Cardinal Basil Hume.