

## *The Suffering, Compassion, and Invitation of Christ*

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.”

— *Revelation 21:6*

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### 1. The Uniqueness of Christ as the Only Savior

Scripture teaches clearly that salvation is found in no one else. Jesus Christ is not just *a way*—He is *the Way*.

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” — *Acts 4:12*

This foundational truth of the Christian faith (exclusivity of Christ) is affirmed throughout the New Testament. Jesus alone fulfills the

prophetic requirements of the Messiah—His death, resurrection, and ascension make Him the only sufficient Savior (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

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## 2. The Suffering Servant: Fulfillment of Prophecy

Jesus' suffering on the cross was not accidental; it was fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. The prophet Isaiah foresaw a servant so marred by suffering that His appearance was shocking.

“Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.” — *Isaiah 52:14*

This suffering Servant is further revealed in Isaiah 53—a passage often called “the gospel in the Old Testament.” Jesus endured brutal humiliation, not for His own sin, but for ours (Isaiah 53:5). The physical, emotional, and spiritual agony He experienced on the way to Golgotha displayed the depth of God's love and the cost of our redemption.

### 3. The Paradox: The Source of Living Water Says, “I Thirst”

Jesus boldly declared that He was the giver of living water:

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” — *John 7:37-38*

And again, at the end of Revelation, He promises to satisfy the thirsty soul:

“I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.” — *Revelation 21:6*

Yet in one of His final statements on the cross, Jesus says:

“After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I thirst!’” — *John 19:28*

Theologically, this moment reflects both Jesus’ true humanity and His identification with our suffering. He was fully God and fully man (*hypostatic union*). He experienced real physical thirst, fulfilling Psalm 22:15 and Psalm 69:21—Messianic psalms that foreshadowed this very scene.

But there is more than physical thirst here. Jesus wasn’t thirsting for water—He was thirsting to fulfill the Father’s will and pour out the water of life for a dying world.

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#### 4. Blood and Water: A Sign of New Birth

When the soldier pierced Jesus’ side, something remarkable happened.

“But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.” — *John 19:34*

This moment shocked the soldier, likely leading to his conversion (cf. Mark 15:39). Theologically, this dual flow of blood and water symbolizes:

- Atonement (blood) - cleansing from sin (Hebrews 9:22)
- Regeneration (water) - new birth through the Holy Spirit (John 3:5)

This echoes the imagery of sacraments—baptism (water) and the Lord’s Supper (blood). Jesus was not just satisfying prophecy—He was birthing the Church from His wounded side, just as Eve came from Adam’s side.

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## 5. The Thirst of Jesus: Not for Water, But for Souls

Christ’s statement, “*I thirst,*” was not a plea for relief but an expression of longing—for you.

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise... but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” — *2 Peter 3:9*

Jesus desires to give water, not receive it. His thirst is a metaphor for His deep longing to save, to restore, to satisfy the human heart that is dry and broken.

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## 6. The Invitation: Come and Drink

What does Jesus require of us?

- Repent - Turn away from sin.
- Believe - Trust in Him as Lord and Savior.
- Be Baptized - By full immersion in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38).
- Receive the Holy Spirit - Who enables you to walk in new life.

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” — *Matthew 11:28*

Once you come, you will never thirst again (John 4:14). He doesn't just satisfy temporarily—He fills you with living water that flows from the inside out.

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## 7. Taste and See

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!” — *Psalms 34:8*

Don't rely on someone else's story. Come to Jesus yourself. When you drink from Him, you'll have a testimony of your own.

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Final Encouragement:

Jesus is still saying, “*I thirst.*” Not because He needs water—but because He longs to give you the water of eternal life. Will you receive it?

God bless you.

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