

“I AM THIRSTY.” LENT 2021

St T's Weekly Devotional || Wednesday 17th March 2021



“I AM THIRSTY.”
JOHN 19.28-29

David Mouncer

The hours of torture on the cross are taking a tremendous toll on the body of Jesus. Execution by crucifixion was never a sudden death like being shot by a firing squad. It was a long, drawn out, lingering death. An execution carried out under the withering eastern sun. You were hung out to dry! Wounded hands and feet quickly become inflamed A fever of thirst descends upon the victim hung on the butcher's hook.

Consider the prophetic words of Psalm 22.

I'm poured out like water and all my bones are out of joint.

My heart was turned to wax, it has melted within me.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.”

These are the real physical sufferings of our Saviour.

When we are thirsty, we get a drink. We don't wait, we avail ourselves almost immediately of fluid.

Not for a victim of crucifixion.

It is understandable that he accepts vinegar. But surely he had earlier refused the drugged wine designed to alleviate the intensity of the coming sufferings?

Now he accepts the vinegar to moisten his lips. For he has two more momentous sayings to cry which the world must hear.

“I thirst”.

