

We were so amazed when we found Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman at the well. He asked her, in spite of the issues that were so clear to us about her being a Samaritan and a woman, for a drink of water. He declared to her that He was the “water of Life¹”, and that message is meant for all those who follow Him. He promised that this water would in us become a spring of water welling up to eternal life, and we would never thirst again. The idea of a spring should make us think that this living water would be a benefit to all of those around us.

It is ironic that not long after this last supper, as he hung on the cross², He Himself was thirsty and once again spoke of it. He quenches our spiritual thirst, but because of our sin, and the shedding of His blood, His sacrifice for us made Him physically thirsty. And, of course made Him ultimately feel the pain of death. It should be noted that He also thirsted for the presence of His Father.

There was an interesting connection between His blood and His thirst that I have since thought about from time to time. When He cried out in His thirst, hyssop was used to bring vinegar to His lips³. Hyssop, of course, was used to paint the doorframes of the houses of the Israelites with blood in preparation for the angel of blood to pass over them as it put to death the firstborn of the Egyptians⁴. Christ, as the Passover Lamb⁵, in a way mixed the images of blood and water in a subtle way, and later the blood and water poured from His body in His death⁶.

There is a strong hunger and thirst within all of us for spiritual wellness, and our own physical hunger and thirst is a sort of reflection of this⁷. Jesus also said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled⁸.” We participate in a “feast” with Him where we can indeed be filled as we remember the overwhelming love of God, and worship Him in spirit and in truth⁹.

1. John 4:14.
2. John 19:28.
3. John 19:29.
4. Exodus 11.
5. 1 Corinthians 5:7.
6. John 19:34.
7. A.W. Tozer once wrote, “Among the many who profess the Christian faith, scarcely one in a thousand reveals any passionate thirst for God.” In which category are we?
8. Matthew 5:6.
9. John 4:23-24.