**“Words of Thirst”**

John 19:28-29

Discussion Questions

1) In verse 28 John lets us know that Jesus is aware that “everything had now been finished”. In what sense is this true since Jesus had not yet died? NB: For Jesus’ extraordinary understanding of reality, refer to John 2:24-25; 6:64, 16:30.

2) John makes mention of the fact that Scripture is being fulfilled in this moment. He may very well have been referring to Psalm 69:3, 21-22. Why is there such concern about so small a detail (i.e. why does it matter that Jesus’ thirst was mentioned in prophecy)?

3) What is the significance of Jesus physically suffering thirst? How does Jesus’ suffering assist us in our own faith? (See 1 Peter 2:18-25).

4) It would seem to have been customary for a jar of wine vinegar to be by the cross (vs. 29). Some suggest the wine was present to prolong life (and suffering) on the cross while others feel it was there to provide some relief (if only for the soldiers as they waited). What do you think?

5) See Matthew 27:32-34. Jesus initially refuses an offer of wine but then accepts it at this point. Why do you think He refuses the first offer and then seems to request and accept the wine the second time? How does your answer inform our understanding of suffering and our approach to it?

6) This is not the first time we have seen the theme of thirst appear in Jesus’ life. Review John 4:1- 15; 6:35, 7:37-39, Matthew 10:42. How do these earlier accounts differ from what we are seeing here (and possibly inform our understanding of Christ’s work on the cross)?

7) In what way have you suffered “thirst” in your spiritual walk? What were the circumstances? Did your faith in Jesus help you during that time (and if so, in what way)?

8) Who do you know that is spiritually “thirsty”? What are some ways to help that person recognize how Jesus can quench that thirst? HINT: What are some ways other than Jesus that this person may have tried to satisfy that thirst?

9) What has God taught you through this text? What will you do differently because of it?