INTRODUCTION:

—[A small boy, just put to bed, called a few minutes later to his father, “Da-ad...” “What?” “I’m thirsty. Can you bring me a glass of water?” “No. You had your chance. Lights out.” . . . “Da-ad...” “WHAT?” “I’m thirsty... Can I have a drink of water?” “I told you NO! If you ask again, I’ll spank you!” . . . “Da-ad...” “WHAT!” “When you come in to spank me, can you bring me a glass of water?”]

—[A personal memory: When about 4 y/o, I remember a long night, half-awake and half-dreaming, but thirsty with a high fever. I couldn’t call for my mom or get to the glass of water she’d left on the dresser; it was a terrible kind of suffering, being unable to quench my thirst.]—John 19:28, Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”

—Thirst was the last part of His suffering, because “everything had now been finished.” He spoke of His thirst “so that Scripture would be fulfilled”—Psa 22:15, My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. / Psa 69:20-21, Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none. They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.

—This shortest of His last words on Calvary reminds us of the Bible’s shortest verse: “Jesus wept.” Both showed His full identification with our human condition of suffering. But also this, HOM.idea. His way...

I. The Thirst of a True Human (Jesus had true biological thirst)

A. Water has a dynamic role in sustaining human life: it’s essential....

1. for transporting dissolved substances [allowing nutrition & excretion],
2. for regulating temperature [heat of evaporation & specific heat]
3. for chlorophyll photosynthesis [making sugar from light, CO₂ and H₂O]

B. Thank God for thirst! (built-in mechanism to ensure internal homeostasis):

1. Thirst is the brain’s sense of water loss [a God-given survival reflex; that can be ignored through preoccupation, just as spiritual thirst often is.]
2. Thirst is dynamically connected with perspiration & blood loss [Jesus’ last drink had been from a cup that symbolized the thirst He would suffer from a sweating body that was losing blood.]
3. Thirst has a psychological component [Think of “Got milk?” ads.]
4. Thirst can also be deceived [dysfunctional thirst from diseases like hypokalemia or addictions like alcoholism] – [song: Fill My Cup, Lord–}
“Like the woman at the well I was seeking / For things that could not satisfy: / And then I heard my Savior speaking: ‘Draw from My well that never shall run dry.’]. Christ’s dying thirst can quench human thirsting.

TRANS: Jesus had felt real human thirst even before the Cross. He’d asked the woman at the well for a drink. But on the Cross He came to experience the sinner’s thirst, in whose place He was dying. This was...