
SUNDAY

I thirst.

April 6, 2025

I thirst. These words are strange. This is the One who has said He offers water that will forever quench the thirst of all who drink it. Yet, he thirsts.

John has spent much of his gospel emphasizing the divinity and determination of Jesus. Emphasizing how Jesus is God. Over and over Jesus says He and the Father are One.

And now, on the cross, the
Divine One, the Word that
was in the beginning, He
thirsts.

For John, this is an
astounding observation- the
Holy One made flesh,
suffering, human.

This week, we will ponder
these words: I thirst.

We will consider thirst in
John's gospel, in the other
Gospels, in the Psalms, in the
words of Christianity's great
thinkers.

As you begin this new week of Lent, ask God for His help making space for Him this week. Ask for His help to thirst for time with Him.

*“Let anyone who is thirsty
come to me and drink. ³⁸
Whoever believes in me, as
Scripture has said, rivers of
living water will flow from
within them.”*

John 7:37b-38

MONDAY

I thirst.

April 7, 2025

*“Whoever believes in me will
never be thirsty.”*

Jesus, in John 6:35

It's interesting to consider
Jesus' words from the cross,
coming from the lips of the
One who talks about
quenching the thirst of
others forever.

Over and over he claimed
that if someone followed
Him, they would never thirst
again.

In John's gospel, thirst seems to be about more than physical thirst.

He asks for a drink from the Samaritan woman, whose thirst for love and acceptance has led her through the arms of 5 different men.

After He feeds a crowd of thousands with a few loaves of bread and a handful of fish, the people are still hungry- but not for physical food.

They ask Jesus for more bread, more signs. And in response, He tells them that what they are really looking for can only be found in Him. That if they believe in HIM, they'll never be hungry or thirsty again.

After this, many desert Him. It seems they wanted the benefits and miracles of following Jesus, but not the hard truth about His identity and their responsibility to follow Him. They wanted more physical bread, not a command to "take up your cross."

Their reaction demonstrates
what they were really hungry
for.

What are we really hungry for? Is it really God? Is it actually His will do be done?

Today, ask God to reveal what your soul really longs for. Ask for His help to hunger and thirst primarily for HIM.

TUESDAY

I thirst.

April 8, 2025

*"Blessed are those who
hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they will
be filled."*

Matthew 5:6

In the Bible, thirst is often about more than physical thirst. It is often a way of speaking of spiritual thirst.

In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, Jesus begins with the "Beatitudes."

Each beatitude begins with the words "blessed are those who..." and ends with a promise.

This beatitude speaks of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Righteousness means justice, holiness, life lived according to God's way.

To thirst for righteousness is
to thirst for God's will. To
thirst for the world to
operate according to God's
plan. And to long for that to
begin in our own hearts.

Today, ask God to help you see that His way really is the best way. Ask for His help to long for His will- the way Jesus did. And ask for His help to trust His promise that we will one day experience the satisfaction of our longings fulfilled.

WEDNESDAY

I thirst.

April 9, 2025

*As the deer pants for streams
of water, so my soul pants for
you, my God.*

*² My soul thirsts for God, for
the living God. When can I
go and meet with God?*

Psalm 42:1-2

Our dog Addy is a LOUD drinker. When she slurps her water from her bowl it is not quiet. It is dramatic. Messy. As though she has never had a drink before and is afraid she'll never have one again.

What's that? You want to see
a picture of her? Ok, sure, no
problem.



She's pretty cute, yeah? But that's besides the point.

The point is- the psalmist is saying that the way he longs for God is the way animals long for water when they're thirsty. It's messy. It's loud. It sounds desperate.

I wonder if our desire for
God would be described this
way? Is your longing for God
messy? Desperate? All-
consuming?

When I was a kid, there was a song we sang at church called "As The Deer" that came from the words of this psalm. It was my favorite song, and the first song I memorized on the piano. I still think it is BEAUTIFUL.

But now that I think back on
it- I wonder if that song
encapsulates the way we
think about our longing for
God? That it should be
dignified. Controlled.
Soothing to the ears.

Jesus' cry of "I thirst" from the cross was certainly not pretty or dignified. And as we talked about last week as we studied lament- our thirst for God's way doesn't have to be pretty either. Because this world is not always pretty.

Today, ask Jesus for His help to be honest in your longings for God's will to be done, for justice to be done, for righteousness to reign. Ask for His help to be honest, even when what's in your heart isn't pretty- but desperate, noisy, and unfiltered.

THURSDAY

I thirst.

April 10, 2025

*Thou hast formed us for
Thyself, and our hearts are
restless till they find rest in
Thee.*

*Oh! how shall I find rest in
Thee? Who will send Thee
into my heart to inebriate it,
so that I may forget my woes,
and embrace Thee my only
good?*

St. Augustine of Hippo

I love this quote from St.
Augustine.

"Our hearts are restless until
they find rest in Thee."

He's saying what the Psalmist said, what Jesus said- we are thirsty, we are hungry- and only God can give us what will really satisfy.

In the movie, "Pirates of the Caribbean", Captain Barbosa and the crew of the Black Pearl steal cursed gold that leaves them unable to experience any kind of satisfaction.

He says all the drink in the world didn't satisfy and that food turned to ash in their mouths.

This is the picture of what happens when we try to find satisfaction in anything but God. It doesn't work.

Augustine observed that we will keep searching our whole life for something that satisfies us until we find satisfaction in Jesus.

Today, consider the state of your soul. Are you restless? Are you still seeking satisfaction in that which cannot satisfy?

Ask Jesus to reveal anything about your longings that is focused on something other than Him.

FRIDAY

I thirst.

April 11, 2025

We've talked about OUR thirst. But let's come back to JESUS' thirst.

Of course He was physically thirsty. And maybe that is just why John included Jesus saying "I thirst."

Because he was so astounded
that the Son of God, the
Divine One who existed
before time began, was
before his eyes experiencing
the very human sensation of
thirst.

But maybe there's more to it.
William Willimon reflects that
perhaps Jesus was thirsting
not only for water... but for
us.

*"But maybe He wasn't thirsty even for water. Maybe he was thirsty for his righteousness' sake. Maybe he was thirsty for **us**. Is that not a fair summary of much of Scripture- God's got this thing for us?"*

*God is determined-through
Creation, the words of the
prophets, the teaching of the
law, the birth of the Christ-
to get close to us. God has
this unquenchable thirst to
have us. Even us."*

William H. Willimon,
"Thank God It's Friday"

What a thought. Jesus, on the cross, thirsting for US. Longing for us. Longing for our forgiveness and redemption.

Perhaps his thirst for us is what sustained Him on the cross.

Perhaps "I thirst" was a last explanation for why He had endured all of the pain and shame of the cross.

Perhaps "I thirst" was a last confession of His motivation.

Perhaps that's why after "I thirst" came, "It is finished."

Because Jesus knew He'd
done what He came to do.
He had accomplished what
He set out to do. He'd made
a way for humanity to find its
way back to God.

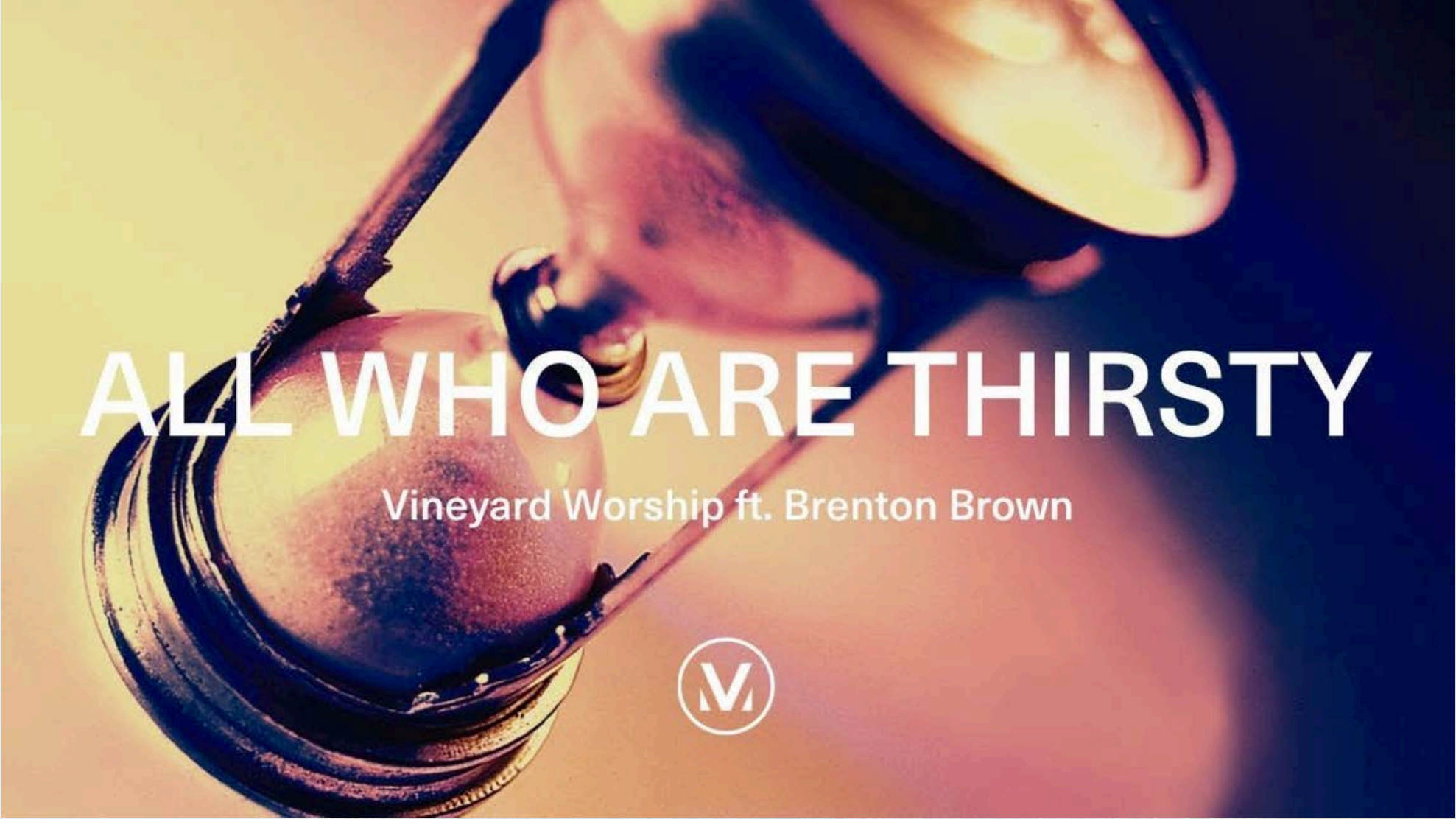
*Today, thank God that you
are SO LOVED by Him. If
you've never experienced
God's great love for you- ask
Him today to show you that
He really and truly does love
you. And then keep your eyes
peeled for how He answers.*

SATURDAY

I thirst.

April 12, 2025

Today, listen to an old worship song, "All Who Are Thirsty" and sit in Jesus' invitation to us to come to Him with our thirst, come to Him with our pain, come to Him with our weariness and desire for more.



ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY

Vineyard Worship ft. Brenton Brown



Link to song in the comments
below!
