

Living Water Series: Are You Thirsty?

Text: John 7:37-39

As we enter into a season of “epiphany” a question we should be open to asking:

- What is God calling you to come and see?
- Come and experience?
- Come and enjoy?
- Come and experience
- What does God want to shed light on in your life and world?

Context: “On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted, if anyone is thirsty, he may come to me. (verse 37)

Jesus is in Jerusalem participating in the Feast of the Tabernacles. At the end of the water ceremony Jesus stands to invite people into a fulfillment of what this ceremony was prophetically speaking about.

Jesus is offering springs of living water. Reminding the crowd of a prophetic promise in Isaiah 58:11 which says, *“And the LORD will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; And you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.”*

People were made for God within their lives.

- Does the narrative of a person's life change if God is not within a person's life?
- What are things you thirst for in life?
- What are things you have pursued to satisfy the thirst within your life?

Read: John 4:1-30 – The Women at the Well

Question: What thirst did this lady discover when she talked with Jesus?

Don Witney suggests there are three types of thirst:

The Thirst of the Empty Soul:

The soul of the unbeliever is empty towards the things of God. Without God, an unbeliever is constantly looking for something, anything, but unable to fill this emptiness. This is something many people do not understand, but that the Bible

teaches clearly: While the believer's soul is empty because he does not know God, he does not seek to fill it with God.

Jeremiah 2:13 "For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me — the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!"

The empty soul seeks to be satisfied. It seeks satisfaction in work, family, relationships, love, sex, hobby, activity, volunteering, recreation, social media, money and everything else the world has to offer. It may seek satisfaction in religion and even the Christian religion, but yet never truly seeks God and thus never finds Him.

And so, it is not until the Holy Spirit enables that soul to understand the source of their thirst and enables them to see the One who can satisfy, they will continue to look in vain.

The Thirst of the Dry Soul:

This is a thirst that is felt only by those who believe. It does not indicate that someone has fallen away from the Lord, but that they are in a dry place spiritually, and that their soul is in need of refreshment.

How does this happen?

1. This can happen by drinking too often from the fountains of the world and too little from the river of God. When a believer drinks too much of what the world has to offer and too little of what God offers, the soul becomes parched.
2. A believer can become dry because of what the Puritans refer to as "God's deserts." There are times in life when God's presence is very real to us and other times it is as if we feel only His absence. We know as believers that God's absence is merely our perception and that there is never a time where He actually withdraws from us. However, there are seasons in which it seems He removes from us our conscious knowledge of His presence.
3. A believer becomes arid if fatigued, because of mental and /or physical reasons. Becoming burned-out by the cares and concerns of the world will require of a believer to focus too much on themselves, thus turning their thoughts from God.

The Thirst of the Satisfied Soul:

The type of spiritual thirst is the thirst of the satisfied soul. The satisfied soul desires God precisely because they are satisfied in Him.

Psalm 63:1 - O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole-body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.

Thomas Shepard wrote "There is in true grace an infinite circle; a man by thirsting receives, and by receiving thirsts for more." This is not a cycle of frustration, where we continually lament that we do not have, rather it is a cycle of satisfaction and earnest desire.

QUESTION:

What is the condition of your soul today? If you had to pick one?

Are you thirsty?

Will we Come and Drink?

Will we come and receive?

What would it look like to take positive steps in these good directions?

A.W. Tozer, "O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made thirsty still."