



July 25, 2021 - "Are You Thirsty?" - Isaiah 55:1-13

OPEN

Have you ever been **really** thirsty? I never fully understood thirst until I spent time in Pakistan. It was not only the heat that created thirst. There was also the challenge of finding clean, drinkable water. It was at that time that Psalm 63:1 came alive for me.

*O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek You;  
My soul thirsts for You, my body longs for You,  
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

Not only was I longing for physical water...I was also finding a new level of dependence and delight in my relationship with God.



Thirst compels us to find something that will **satisfy**. In Isaiah 55:1-13 we discover an "invitation for the thirsty". Are you spiritually thirsty today? Are you conscious of your need for cleansing, meaning, and purpose for your life? More importantly, have you found **satisfaction** for your thirst in Jesus?

DIG

Our passage reveals that God is not passive when it comes to His offer of pardon. God **actively seeks** to pardon the sinner! In Isaiah 55 we discover three snapshots of God's pardoning ways.

### 1. An unimaginable invitation – vv. 1-5

The first thing we discover is that God invites us to come to Him for forgiveness and fulfillment. And if we are honest about humanity's hostility to God, we will see that this is **unimaginable**. As verse 1 indicates, we do not have the means to find satisfaction for our souls. God's pardon is offered freely by His grace and goodness. Listen to Nehemiah's testimony – "But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore, you did not desert them." (9:17)

In 1965 the assistant coach of the University of Florida Gators asked school researchers to determine why so many football players were impacted by heat related illnesses. Studies revealed that the players were suffering loss of electrolytes and carbohydrates. So, a beverage was designed to replace those elements and the result is "Gatorade." [read more](#)

In verse 2 we are asked to examine what false-satisfaction we may be seeking. Instead, we are invited to experience "life that is truly life" (A. W. Tozer – [read more](#)). God's loyal, faithful love provides us with rescue from sin, new life, and calling into God's Kingdom purposes (vv.3-5).

### 2. An unconventional transformation – vv. 6-11

Now – today – is the time to seek and find God (v.6). What does this require? It calls us to something that is **unconventional**. Abandoning our ways and turning to God's ways is not natural – see vv. 8-9. To **repent** requires the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the transformation which God gives. The conventional wisdom says we can constantly improve or evolve as humans – "self-improvement". But God commands repentance that we might receive His free pardon, apart from any effort we might make.

In Pennsylvania, in 1829, George Wilson was convicted of mail robbery and murder. He was sentenced to death. However, President Jackson offered him a pardon. But Wilson refused to accept it. Finally, Chief Supreme Court Justice, John Marshall, ruled: "A pardon is a paper, the value of which depends upon its acceptance by the parties implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that one under the sentence of death would refuse to accept a pardon. But if it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must hang."

Much more foolish than Wilson refusing his pardon, is the person who refuses the pardon that God offers. In fact, we insult God's gracious character when we fail to receive what He freely offers to us.

### 3. An unending celebration – vv. 12-13

Celebration follows pardon. When deep spiritual thirst has been satisfied in God, we experience joy and peace (v.12). The Eucharist (from the Greek "thanksgiving") becomes one aspect of **unending celebration**.

Eugene Peterson writes in his book *A Long Obedience In The Same Direction* (IVP, 2000, 190, 199) about a life of blessing and thanksgiving.

*“The way of discipleship that begins in an act of repentance (teshubah) concludes in a life of praise (berakah).”* The concept of **“berakah”** (blessing) is “God’s goodness brought into my life.”

Karl Barth suggested that **“Charis** always demands the answer **eucharista**...Gratitude follows grace as thunder follows lightning.”

In Matthew 18:27 Jesus described a servant whose un-payable debt was “forgiven” (apelusen, lit. “released”). Tragically, there was no celebration going forward because this man refused to recognize the value of forgiveness. How about you? Are you living in unending celebration for salvation in Jesus?

In I Corinthians 11:26 we are instructed celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus until He returns. However, we are not talking about **endless ritual**. Rather, we are invited into an ongoing participation in spiritual hydration! We are to be constantly satisfied in Christ! Consider the story of [CamelBak®](#) .

*Bicycle enthusiast Michael Eidson was competing in...a 100-mile road race...in the grueling summer heat of...Texas. Water is vital to surviving the race, but there are few places to refill, let alone time to stop. An emergency medical technician by trade, Eidson came up with a solution on the fly: he filled an IV bag with He then threw the hose over his shoulder and clamped it shut with a clothespin. Hands-free hydration was born.*

## REFLECT

Colossians 2:13-14 confidently states that the Christ follower is pardoned because Jesus “wiped out” our debt and nailed it to the cross. As a result, the communion table an appropriate place to ponder the pardon that has been freely given to us.

“Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.” (Isaiah 55:1)

Reflect on this invitation from [“Living Waters”](#) by Keith and Kristyn Getty.



Communion is the table of the Lord Jesus – please hear His welcome – just like the passionate invitation we have seen in Isaiah 55. If you have a personal relationship with Jesus, please participate.

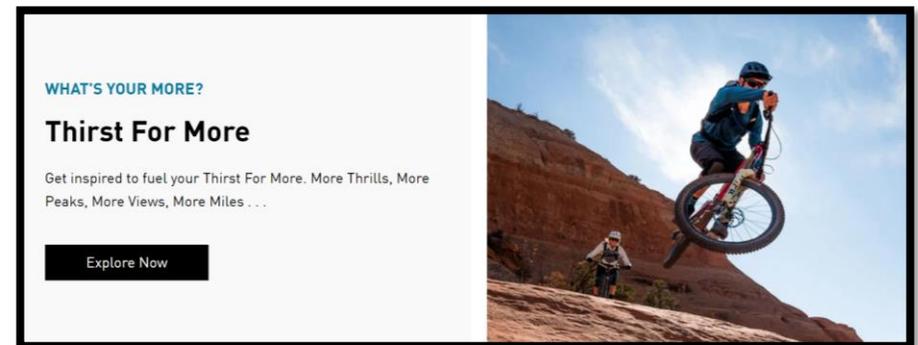
However, it also vital that we examine our hearts at the time of communion. God’s pardon is transformative, so communion must not be a false representation of our lives.

Is your thirst satisfied by God? Consider these lyrics by Samuel Davies...

*Great God of wonders! All Thy ways are matchless, Godlike and divine;  
But the fair glories of Thy grace more Godlike and unrivaled shine,  
Crimes of such horror to forgive, such guilty, daring worms to spare;  
This is Thy grand prerogative, and none shall in the honor share,  
Who is a pardoning God like Thee? Or who has grace so rich and free?*

*In wonder lost, with trembling joy, we take the pardon of our God:  
Pardon for crimes of deepest dye, a pardon bought with Jesus’ blood,  
O may this strange, this matchless grace, this Godlike miracle of love,  
Fill the whole earth with grateful praise, and all the angelic choirs above,  
Who is a pardoning God like Thee? Or who has grace so rich and free?*

On the CamelBak website we read...



Without proper hydration you will never experience such thrills! But this is even more true in the spiritual realm!

Consider CamelBak’s powerful question, “What’s Your More?”

We must remain spiritually hydrated to reach the **more** that God has for us!

**Read Psalm 63:1-5.**