

"Never Thirst"

Lent 2

1)

John 4.5-26

2)

March 8, 2020

May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. (2 Thess. 3:5)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Are you thirsty?

- Ask the runner after a race
- It's a beautiful day outside, if you go on a walk later, you may need a drink of water to rehydrate
- God designed us this way – that our bodies are made up of water

And, when our bodies need water, it is like the low-level indicators on the dashboard in your car...we get a little dizzy and light headed, an athlete might cramp up. Your body is telling you need water.

Are you thirsty? In our gospel lesson, Jesus is not talking about physical thirst as much as he is talking about a spiritual thirst. Jesus' point that he shared with the woman at Jacob's well. The point – no matter what you search after in life, you will always be thirsty or empty. But if you quench your spiritual thirst or longing in Jesus, you will never thirst. Jesus said – **"Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst."**

Many in our world today do not want to acknowledge that they have a spiritual thirst – the same way the woman at the well wasn't aware of her spiritual needs. Many have the symptoms of spiritual needs – anger, hatred, guilt or worry – but they try to do what they can to mask over them.

- Minimize the symptoms or mask over them – like high cholesterol – saying, "It's not that bad, so I just deal with it."
- Self-medicating – with drugs, alcohol, pornography, food or youtube and social media.
- There is a spiritual desire inside all of us that we want quenched. But, we fill it with everything other than Jesus.

- The devil is the one who distracts and points us in opposite directions.

What is it that we are looking for? We want a repaired and restored relationship with God. After he had opportunity, Jesus directed his conversation to the only thing that would meet her spiritual needs.

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

In the same way that water meets a great need for the body, Jesus meets all of our needs spiritually. Think of those gospel promises where Jesus quenches the spiritual thirst that we need.

- To his disciples – **“Do not be afraid.”**
- Loneliness – **“I will be with you always to the end of the age.”**
- When we’re in trouble – **“Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you will honor me.”**
- Worry – **“Do not worry. Look at the birds of the air...or the flowers of the field...see how your heavenly father feeds them. Aren’t you much more valuable than they?”**
- **“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.”**

Sin creates the spiritual thirst that we have. But consider what Jesus did from the cross. He cried out, **“I am thirsty.”** He experienced God’s wrath, completely separated from God. Jesus was there paying for our sins – for every time we have failed to trust in God, every time we’ve been filled with worry, fear, anger. Even more, Jesus cried out, **“It is finished.”** Jesus made a full payment for our sins. Jesus thirsted so you and I would never thirst.

Retell Genesis 12 – story of Abram

Are we wandering or searching for something to meet a deep spiritual need in our life? To quench a spiritual thirst. Think about all those people in your life who have deep spiritual needs, who are spiritually thirsty. How can you offer them a cool cup of water to quench their thirst? How can you direct them back to the well of Jesus? Jesus lived, died and rose again to take away all our sins and the sins of the world. He is the one who promises that if we drink of him, we will never thirst. Amen.