Satisfying the Unquenchable Thirst

Isaiah 29:8  It shall even be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty; or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite: so shall the multitude of all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion.

On July 30, 1945, the battle cruiser USS Indianapolis was returning from the top-secret mission

- of delivering the final components of the Atomic Bomb
  - to allied forces in the Pacific.
- However, it did not make it home.
  - A Japanese torpedo hit the cruiser on its way back.
  - It sank in minutes.
- In only 12 minutes, 300 of the 1,200 men died.
  - Nine hundred went into the water.
- Because of the top-secret nature of their mission, their sinking went unnoticed.
  - Nobody knew the ship was missing.
- The 900 sailors that survived the original attack
  - spent a grueling four days and five nights
  - without food and without water
  - under the blazing sun
  - floating in the Pacific Ocean.
- Of the 900 men that went into the water,
  - only 316 survived the exhaustion, dehydration and the sharks.
- One of those who survived was the chief medical officer, who recorded his own experience.
  - He wrote:
  - There was nothing I could do but give advice,
    - bury the dead at sea,
    - save the lifejackets,
    - and try to keep the men from drinking the water.
  - When the hot sun came out,
    - and we were in this crystal clear ocean,
    - we were so thirsty.
  - It was hard to believe it wasn't good enough to drink.
- Imagine for a moment the circumstances these sailors found themselves in…
  - Dying of thirst but surrounded by water!
- The problem with salt water is that there is no satisfaction in it.
  - You can drink it –
    - but you suffer from increased thirst afterward.
  - It's ironic –
    - the more salt water you drink,
    - the less you quench your thirst...
- The science of it is even more amazing.
• The salt in the water inhibits the water from entering the cells in your body.
  o Not only does it stop the water from entering the cells,
    ▪ but it also sucks the water from within those cells.
  • The salt draws the water out of your body.
  o Instead of quenching the thirst,
    ▪ it leaves you even thirstier.
  o This is why nearly 600 sailors died of thirst and heat exhaustion
    ▪ while surrounded by an ocean of water.
  o The chief medical officer said that the men would eventually reach a
    breaking point
    ▪ where they lost all hope
    ▪ and begin to frantically drink the salty water.
    • But instead of helping, it only sped their death up.

I want to talk to you about another kind of thirst, this morning.
• This is a thirst that is not born out of the physical condition of a man
  o but is instead a spiritual desire.
• There is this thirsting within the soul of a man
  o A deep-seated desire for the touch of God.
• I’ve come to tell you this morning that,
  o just like the sailor floating in the ocean,
  o the things of this world will never satisfy
    ▪ the thirsting of your soul.
• The things of this world are like the salt water,
  o there is no satisfaction in them.
    ▪ Pride
    ▪ Position
    ▪ Wealth
    ▪ Nice homes
    ▪ Fast cars
  o All of the things that we work so hard to obtain in this life
    ▪ None of them can satisfy the thirsting of your soul!
• When you obtain them,
  o when you finally reach that place in life
    ▪ that you’ve struggled so hard to reach,
  o you will discover that
    ▪ instead of quenching the thirsting of your soul,
      • those things will only leave you longing for something
        more.
• It's ironic –
  o the more you try to satisfy yourself
    ▪ with the things of this world,
  o the more dissatisfied you will be…

Eternity in your heart.
King Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, wrote scripture under the inspiration of God.

- And in Ecclesiastes 3:11
  - he opened a door of understanding into the human condition.
- A portion of this verse read from the Amplified Bible
  - tells us that God has “planted eternity in men’s hearts...”
- The Amplified Bible goes on to explain,
  - “there is a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy.”
- When God made you,
  - he put a little bit of eternity in your heart.
- There is portion of your spiritual makeup
  - that knows what it is to have fellowship with the all-mighty.
- There is a part of you that has tasted
  - a peace that passes all understanding,
  - a joy that is unspeakable,
  - and a love that is unfathomable.
- There is a desire within your heart,
  - planted there by God
  - that nothing in this world will ever satisfy.
- This deep stirring and craving within your soul
  - is not too far removed from natural hunger and thirst.
- It is this gnawing feeling somewhere in the back of your mind
  - that something within you is not satisfied.
- And I’m here to tell you this morning
  - that nothing in this world
    - will ever satisfy that feeling.
- Men have believed that the wealth of this world
  - would satisfy the longing of their souls –
    - but the wealthy have thrown their lives away
    - under the influence of an unexplainable depression
    - because all of the money in the world
    - can’t quench the thirsting within your soul.
- People have believed that power and prestige,
  - position and recognition
  - would somehow satisfy that desire within
    - but they have been sadly disappointed
    - as they have discovered
    - that when they reach the pinnacle of success
    - there is still something on the inside that is not satisfied.
- Still others have tried to fill the void
  - with education and knowledge
    - but all the knowledge in the world
    - will never satisfy that craving in your heart.
- There is a part of you this morning...
The psalmist David summed up the human condition when he said,
- in Psalms 42:1-2
  - As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. **My soul thirsteth for God…**
  - My soul thirsts for God!
- Just like the deer is driven by some inner compulsion to seek out water when he is wounded or weary,
  - David said, there is something within me that drives me to seek God.
- I must find him,
  - I must be satisfied… **My soul thirsts for God!**
- David said, in another place, (Psalms 143:6)
  - “I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee (Oh God)”
- David, the most successful king in the history of Israel bares his soul and says,
  - “There is something within me that this world cannot satisfy.”
  - I thirst for you, Oh God.

The problem is that many men spend their lives constantly seeking to fill that inner desire but are never satisfied.
- Like famished sailors floating in oceans of deadly water The things of this life that surround us, although they appear to have substance, cannot touch this desire on the inside of us.
- We are like the sailor who finally reaches the state of delirium and is unable to believe that the water all around him will not satisfy his thirst.
- The things of this life appeal to our senses, and we convince ourselves somehow, If I just had that, or if I could just do that this thirsting in my soul would be satisfied.
- But, my friend, nothing in this world can satisfy that thirst but God.
  - The prophet Isaiah said, in our text, “It is like when a hungry man dreams, and behold he eats, but then he awakes and discovers that his soul is empty…”
  - Or as when a thirsty man dreams and behold he drinks, but he awakes
• _and he is still thirsty_
• _because his soul hasn’t been satisfied…”_

- As long as you try to fill that void in your life
  - with the things of this world
    - you are always going to be disappointed.
- It is like the hungry man that dreams that he is eating
  - the richest and most succulent of foods,
    - and his mind tells him, this should satisfy your hunger
- But when he stirs himself from sleep
  - he realizes that the hunger is still there,
    - gnawing on him from the inside.
- The things of this world will draw you and attract you
  - and promise to satisfy you.
- But my friend, once you have tasted them
  - and given yourself fully to them
    - you will discover that their satisfaction
      - is but a fleeting thing.
- You will awaken to discover
  - that there is still a longing in your soul
    - that hasn’t been satisfied.

Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived
- but still he found himself trapped
  - within the vicious cycle
  - of trying to satisfy a spiritual thirst
  - with earthly appetites.
- He tried drinking from the polluted wells of this world,
  - trying to find satisfaction,
    - and he tried it all.
- He documented his search in the book of Ecclesiastes:
  - First he tried wild living.
    - He said: "I thought in my heart,
      - "Come now, I will test you with pleasure
        - to find out what is good."
  - But that lifestyle proved to be empty.
    - "Laughter," he said, "is foolish.
      - And what does pleasure accomplish?"
  - He lived the life that many have longed for
    - it was all play and no work.
      - But that didn't satisfy him.
  - He tried wine.
    - He said: "I tried cheering myself with wine,
      - and embracing folly—
      - I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do
        - under heaven during the few days of their lives" (Ec 2:3).
o But he found out, what many an alcoholic has learned,
  ▪ all of the wine in the world
  ▪ won’t satisfy the inner thirst of a man.
o Then he tried wealth.
  ▪ He said: "I bought male and female slaves
  ▪ and had other slaves who were born in my house.
  ▪ I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in
    Jerusalem before me.
  ▪ I amassed silver and gold for myself,
  ▪ and the treasure of kings and provinces.
  ▪ I acquired men and women singers,
  ▪ and a harem as well—the delights of the heart of man"
    (2:7-8).
o But he came to the conclusion that the eyes of a man are never satisfied.
  ▪ The more he has, the more he wants
  ▪ Because the thirsting in his soul
    will never be satisfied by earthly possessions.
o Solomon said, "I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;
  ▪ I refused my heart no pleasure.
  ▪ My heart took delight in all my work,
  ▪ and this was the reward for all my labor."
o But still there was an emptiness on the inside.
  ▪ He tried wisdom and knowledge
    immersing himself in education.
    ▪ But even wisdom and knowledge
      didn’t satisfy his longing.
o Finally, at the end of the book of Ecclesiastes
  ▪ he divulged the result of his search,
  ▪ He said: "Now all has been heard;
    ▪ here is the conclusion of the matter:
    ▪ Fear God and keep His commandments,
    ▪ for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecc. 12:13).
  ▪ Solomon finally discovered that only source of satisfaction
    for the longing of his soul was a relationship with God!

Let me save you a whole lot of trouble this morning.
  ▪ I can save you from spending your life, like Solomon,
    searching for something to satisfy your soul.
  ▪ The truth is this morning,
    ▪ that nothing in this life will ever satisfy
      the thirsting in your soul!
  ▪ As long as you pursue the things of this life
    ▪ as an answer to the longing on the inside
      you will be like the man wandering in the desert
craving something to drink
who looks up and suddenly sees an oasis
on the next sand dune.

- He runs to it,
  - but when he arrives there,
  - the oasis has disappeared
  - and reappeared on the next sand dune.

- When he runs to the next sand dune
  - and falls to his knees
  - to scoop up the precious water
  - he discovers that it has eluded him again
  - and now waits on the next sand dune.

- He continues to chase this illusion of satisfaction
  - until finally he dies of thirst
    - because the mirage will never quench his thirsting.

- My friend, you can ignore the invitation of God this morning
  - and you can go from this place and pursue satisfaction in this life
    - but let me assure you this morning
    - that you will never be satisfied
    - by the things of this world.

- The water that surround you is poisonous...
  - Without God in your life,
    - it will only increase the emptiness inside.

  - The things of this life are like the constantly shifting mirage.
    - You may pursue a better job,
    - more money,
    - another car,
    - more expensive clothes,
    - or a bigger house
      - but in the end they will all leave you disappointed.

  - They don't give the lasting pleasure you think they will.
    - That's why many successful people turn to alcohol and drugs.

  - They think that somehow
    - they will find a source of contentment in those things
    - but all they find is disappointment.

- Just like salt water to the dying sailor,
  - the things of this world are not capable
    - of satisfying the thirsting of your soul!

When Jesus carried the weight
- of all the sins of the world
  - to an old rugged cross

- he felt the crushing disappointment
  - of all of those who have wasted their lives
    - in a futile search
    - for something to fill the longing of their soul.
The Pentecostals of Lake City

Notes by Pastor Tony McCall

• Jesus only made 7 statements from the cross
  o and each of them was calculated and meaningful.
• But he only spoke once to his personal condition.
  o As he hung upon that cross
  o with all the weight of men’s follies and sins upon him
    • he uttered two simple words…
      • “I thirst!”
• It is the only fitting description
  o for the lasting effects of the things of this world.
• When sin has its way with you,
  o when the things of this world are done with you
    • they will leave you dry, empty, barren… and thirsty!
      • There’s no satisfaction in them.

The prophet Isaiah spoke to a nation
• that was desperately trying to fulfill the longing of their souls
  o with everything but the presence of God.
• He said to them in Isaiah 55:2
  o “Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread?
    • And your labor for that which doesn’t satisfy?”
• Why have you given yourself and all of your effort
  o to chasing things that cannot satisfy the longing of your soul?
• Why have you wasted yourself upon things
  o that only leave you more empty
    • than you were before you started?

But then he extends an invitation:
• He says: “listen carefully to me,
  o and eat that which is good,
  o let your soul delight itself…”
  • Seek ye the LORD while he may be found,
    • call ye upon him while he is near
      (Isaiah 55:6)
• I am not here this morning
  o just to paint a picture of an unquenchable thirst,
    • but rather I am here in the spirit of Isaiah
      • to invite you to eat that which is good!
• Listen carefully to me this morning
  • your soul can delight itself in the Lord.
    • Seek him while he may be found,
    • call upon him while he is near…
• He is in this house this morning
  o and he is the only thing
    o that can ever satisfy the thirsting in your soul!
• Right now, that longing that is within you
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Satisfying The Unquenchable Thirst

- There is a drawing, as your soul recognizes
  - that what it so desperately needs
  - is here in this house this morning.
- Please don’t let this morning pass
  - without taking the time to satisfy the thirsting within your soul.
  - Seek him while he may found.
  - Call upon him while he is near!

Close

The gospel writers tell the story of Jesus journeying through Samaria,

- where he met a woman by a well.
  - I don’t have time this morning
    - to delve into the personal details of her life,
  - but this was a woman
    - that had expended herself
    - upon the things of this life
      - while trying to satisfy an inner thirst.
- Listen to what Jesus said to this woman,
  - "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again…”
- Physical water doesn’t even have the ability
  - to permanently satisfy physical thirst.
    - You can drink it,
      - but rest assured…
        - you will thirst again.
- If the things of this world cannot satisfy even earthly desires,
  - how much more will they fail to satisfy the longing in your soul?
- Jesus went on to say,
  - “But whosoever drinketh of the water
    - that I shall give him
    - shall never thirst;
  - but the water that I shall give him
    - shall be in him
    - a well of water
    - springing up into everlasting life.”

There it is again, an invitation to satisfy the thirsting of your soul.

- Jesus is talking about satisfying
  - all of your inner most cravings.
- He doesn't necessarily mean
  - that He will give you a new car or a new house.
- But He'll do something far better.
  - He'll give you the gift of the Holy Ghost
    - and fill you with a peace that passes all understanding.
- It’s really simple this morning,
Peter said it best when he said, in Acts 2:38,
- Repent, and be Baptized every one of you
- in the name of Jesus Christ
- for the remission of your sins
- and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The first step to satisfying the longing in your soul
- is finding a place of repentance
  - and asking God to forgive
  - your misguided attempts
    - at filling that emptiness in your life.
- As you kneel in his presence
  - you will find that his spirit will draw near to you
    - in just a moment’s time
      - you can be drinking from springs of living water!
- There is a refreshing for your soul.
  - You don’t have to float any longer in oceans of water
    - with an unquenchable thirst.
- There is a soul satisfaction in this house this morning.
  - You can either stifle the hunger and thirsting of your soul
    - and walk out of this place today,
    - to continue your search
    - for some earthly thing
    - to satisfy an eternal thirst.
  - Or you can step out from where you are
    - and make your way into the presence of God
      - and discover the only satisfaction
      - your soul will ever know.

Let me extend to you an invitation this morning,
- “Come and let your soul delight itself…”
  - As these musicians begin to play and sing,
  - would you find your way to an alter this morning
    - and Seek the LORD while he may be found?
      - Why don’t you call upon him while he is near?
- True satisfaction is closer than you think.
  - He is waiting for you even now,
    - to pour upon your parched soul,
    - rivers of refreshing living water.
- Would you come to the master this morning,
  - would you let him fill that emptiness in your life?