

Thirst
VCC 8/28/06

I. Intro

A. Story of little boy...

1. A small boy is sent to bed by his father. Five minutes later...."Da-ad....""What?""I'm thirsty. Can you bring drink of water?""No. You had your chance. Lights out."Five minutes later: "Daaaaad.....""WHAT?""I'm THIRSTY. Can I have a drink of water?""I told you NO!" If you ask again, I'll have to spank you!!"Five minutes later....."Daaaa-aaaad.....""WHAT!""When you come in to spank me, can you bring a drink of water?"
2. SPRITE ® in it's latest marketing campaigns has enticed us with it's slogan, "Image is nothing. Thirst is everything. **OBEY YOUR THIRST!**". (like a sugared-up, fizzy, lemon-lime beverage has the ability to satisfy the deep longings of your soul!!)
3. We all thirst . . .
 - a) We long to feel loved, experience happiness and joy, and find meaning and significance in life.
 - b) Many people do obey their thirst. They drink up what everyone around them calls love, they pursue what their neighbors call happiness, and they try to find meaning and significance as defined by Dr. Phil, Oprah and MTV. The result is an even greater thirst that seems as though it will never be satisfied. Jesus teaches is about thirst, and how to truly quench our thirst, and he tells it through an experience...

4. Drink from the faucet - not the drain

- a) You can choose to satisfy your thirst by doing whatever feels right at the time. This will temporarily satisfy you, though you will be more thirsty when you are done. The thing that you thought would satisfy only drain you, and you are left parched and dehydrated. If you sucked hard enough on the drain all you will get is OR you can choose to satisfy your thirst by doing what God says. This will satisfy you for good. Though it might be painful, hard, counter-cultural, unpopular, it will satisfy you. It will become a constantly running faucet that does not run dry.
- b) Everyone is THIRSTY, the question is **where** are you drinking?
 - (1) Self-Indulgence: Christians are not above the Solomon-like passions of wanting to satisfy their pleasures.
 - (2) Lack of Contentment: The drive in mankind that says, "Enough is never enough."

II. The Importance of Thirst

A. John 4:5-24, Jesus at the well with the woman

1. She was thirsty for acceptance, love, meaning, happiness, God -- all she had to do was OBEY to quench that thirst.
2. Samaritan woman had tried to drink from many....
 - a) human relationships, marriage and just living together
 - b) religion, greatness of forefathers, prophets, holy mountain, promised Messiah
 - c) accepting her plot in life... hated by Jews, outcast of temple,
3. Many people today try to satisfy their thirst
 - a) human relationships, next husband or wife, or live-in, wealth, drugs, alcohol.....
4. She opened the door to Jesus
 - a) She didn't understand spiritual things, living water... but she submitted her understanding to Jesus.

B. John 7:37-38 -- If you are thirsty, ...come ... drink... believe

1. Drink from the fountain of life, not drain,
2. Ocean looks so cold, refreshing, yet to drink a mouthful is the exact opposite.. if you want to quench thirst you can't go to the ocean, you must go to a PURE, FRESH source.
 - a) What will you obey? self? world's offers? or God... who satisfies?
3. Ac 5:32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy **Spirit**, whom God has given to those who **obey** him."

C. Mt 5:6 Blessed are those who **hunger** and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

1. Jesus did NOT say... Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for Pleasure, happiness, wealth, recognition, blessings, the latest spiritual fad

- a) Lu 6:21 Blessed are you who **hunger** now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

III. How we obtain Thirst

A. By drinking (How do we drink, or develop an attitude for more?)

1. Come

- a) Isa 55:1* "Come, all you who are **thirsty**, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.
b) Hudson Taylor wrote: "The Lord was looking for a man weak enough to use, and He found me."
c) "D.L. Moody aptly observed, "We may easily be too big for God to use, but never too small."
d) God is calling you to once again discover those life-giving thirsting and hungering of the Spirit that will produce a walk with God that is filled with vitality, freshness, authority, and anointing.
(1) When you cry out, "I thirst," how are you satisfied?
e) The NEW WINE of the Spirit... creates a greater desire... This is why drugs and alcohol are such a problem... they create more, but they are just an imitation of the REAL

2. Believe

3. Obey

- a) "When was the last time you did anything for the first time for Jesus' sake?" Has your Christianity become so predictable that you can't remember experiencing something new and fresh in the Spirit of God?

B. By wilderness

1. If you are NOT hungry, God loves you enough to develop hunger and thirst by taking you through the desert.
2. De 8:3 He humbled you, causing you to **hunger** and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.
a) hunger = to be voracious with hunger
b) If you are hungry, ask God to increase you hunger and thirst... he promises to fill those.
3. De 8:15 He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that **thirsty** and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock.

IV. Thirst is attractive to God

- A. Isa 44:3 For I will pour water on the **thirsty** land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.
B. Ps 107:9 for he satisfies the **thirsty** and fills the hungry with good things.
C. Ps 107:33* He turned rivers into a desert, flowing springs into **thirsty** ground,
D. Joh 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be **thirsty**.
E. Re 21:6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is **thirsty** I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.
F. Re 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is **thirsty**, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.
G. 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, for the Living God."
H. Psalms 63:1 said David, "my soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is ..."