

What Are You Thirsting For?

John 4

Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." John 4:4-10 (New International Version)

"Living water" = flowing water = something that would quench the thirst of her soul

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink." John 7:37b (NIV)

WHAT ARE PEOPLE THIRSTING FOR TODAY?

(Thanks to Bill Hybels for suggesting these ideas.)

- **#1: PEOPLE THIRST TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF LIFE.**

"Existential" question relates to questions about our existence.

For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. Acts 17:23 (NIV)

- **#2: PEOPLE THIRST FOR COMMUNITY.**

For my people . . . they have turned away from me, the spring of fresh water, and they have dug cisterns, cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all. Jeremiah 2:13 (Good News Translation)

Cisterns = chambers to collect rain water

- **#3: PEOPLE THIRST TO BE CLEAN.**

. . . God, give grace! . . . wipe out my bad record. Scrub away guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry . . . scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life." Psalm 51:1, 7 (The Message)

Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God . . . 1 Peter 3:18 (New Living Translation)

. . . I no longer count on my own righteousness . . . rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. Philippians 3:9 (NLT)

- **#4: PEOPLE THIRST FOR A GRANDER VISION, SOMETHING BEYOND THEIR OWN LIVES.**

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." Luke 5:5 (NIV)

His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" ¹¹And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus. Luke 5:10-11 (NLT)

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" ¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but 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." John 4:11-14 (NIV)

"Living water" = spiritual life found in Jesus Christ = eternal life

"Drinks this water" = receives Jesus Christ; places faith in Him

Prayer to receive Christ and quench your spiritual thirst: "Father, forgive me for trying to fill my thirst with everything except You. I believe that the resurrected Christ is offering me living water. I receive Jesus and what He offers. I receive forgiveness for my sins and new life. I give myself to You."

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