

GOSPEL OF JOHN
WHAT ARE YOU THIRSTING FOR?
JOHN 7:37-39

Introduction

Read the Scripture: *John 7:37-39*

Jesus used a **metaphor** here drawing a comparison between **the physical thirsting for water that is necessary for physical life and the spiritual thirsting for the Spirit of God in one's life that is necessary for Spiritual life.** (By the way, **water is one of the symbols of the Holy Spirit!**)

Scientists have found that **apart from there being water there can be no physical life of ANY kind! EVERY living thing on the this planet requires water of some sort to have and maintain life!**

Astrobiologists are those who study of heavenly bodies from a distance. One of the things they look for as they study heavenly bodies in this vast universe is **water!** The reason for that is because they know that **if there is water, there is a possibility of life! But apart from water, there can be no life! It is a scientific reality!**

The average adult human is made up of approximately 60% water!
The blood that flows through our veins is made up of about 90% water!
71% of the earth's surface is covered with water! Water is important!

We know the importance of water but we don't think about it much unless there happens to be a lack of it! Have you ever been caught in a situation where there was no water and you felt the need for water?

Growing up we use to watch a lot of westerns! I remember times that the script would play off of a desert scene or involve a drought of some kind! Just watching someone struggle because of a lack of water would make me thirsty! Just me talking about it is making some of you thirsty!

But, have you ever been physically really, really thirsty for water?
I can remember being that way on more than just one occasion! I don't know about you, **but I grew up learning what hard work is by actually working hard! My parents instilled in me and my brothers a good "work ethic"!**

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Sadly, that seems to be missing in the lives of too many young people today! The vast majority of young people are not learning to work! They have learned to complain, but not work! Today many young people get involved in **"causes" with groups that they don't even understand what those groups end game is!** We are seeing way too many of them that think this world owes them something when they haven't put anything into it! That is a recipe for the unrest that we see!

I grew up when there were protests and riots over the Vietnam War. We didn't have time to go out and protest and pull down statues and destroy people's businesses! In fact, we had very little time to go out and get into any trouble at all! And it was because our parents kept us busy at home!

We had chores to do! There were fences to either put up, mend, or keep clean! Digging post holes and putting up fence in southeast Georgia was hard, hot work! And even just cleaning fence rows was hard, hot work!

Also, we had fields to prepare—Fallow ground had to be plowed and broken up; there were rows that had to be laid off; there were seeds and plants that had to be planted; there were weeds that had to be hoed; there were plants that had to be fertilized and watered; there were crops that had to be harvested; there were peas and butter beans that had to be shelled; there were string beans that had to be snapped; there was corn that had to be shucked!

There were fruit trees and vines that had to be tended to— Mostly pear trees and plum trees but also grape vines. These trees and vines had to be pruned in the off season and the fruit had to be picked when it was in season!

We also had animals to tend to—Cows, goats, chickens, hogs, and at one time even a mule which I was glad when dad replaced it with a diesel tractor!

And then **there was a large yard to mow** every week during the growing season! And don't even get me started about the weeds we had to keep pulled out of azalia bushes and such!

What's the point?

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That “*sweat of your brow*” thing that was caused by Adam’s sin in the garden of Eden. I’m real familiar with that and **it will make you very physically tired and very physically thirsty!**

Oh and we didn’t get an “allowance” to get all of that work done! It was our contribution to the Thrower household! Our “*allowance*” was we were “*allowed*” to eat good food and we were “*allowed*” to sleep in a nice bed in a comfortable house and we were “*allowed*” to have clothes to wear! Can I get a witness?

Most kids today don’t know the meaning of chores and work! Many of them complain about being bored! We knew better than to EVER complain about being bored! My parents could FIND something to keep us occupied and I’m not talking about watching TV and there were no videos and there was no internet and there were no computers or video games! But we were rarely bored because, **not only did we work hard, we played hard outdoors!**

Many times as we were busy throughout the day, **we would get very hot and sweat profusely out under the hot sun! Along with that we would get very thirsty! It was important to stay hydrated! Thank God for the good, clean well water that we had!**

Listen, one can live quite a long time without eating, but no one can live very long without drinking water!

We take clean water for granted in our country. In some places in the world people have to walk miles to find water that is drinkable. A lot of water supplies in the world are tainted in some ways causing disease and death. We simply turn on a tap and boom there it is!

Water is so abundant for us in our country that instead of being thankful for it, many become wasteful of it! May God help us to have an appreciation for it!

But listen, Jesus wasn’t talking about a physical thirst here! He was using the picture of our physical thirst to talk about spiritual thirst! As I said, one of the symbols of The Holy Spirit is water!

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When we were born into this world we were born spiritually dead in trespasses and sins! We were dead because we were born spiritually dead in Adam! Where there is no Holy Spirit in one’s life, there can be no spiritual life!

We were born spiritually dead because of sin! We were spiritually dry with a yearning that we didn’t even know what we were yearning for!

But when we repented of our sin and came to Jesus and believed on Him, Jesus gave us that spiritual water, that spiritual life! *Ephesians 2:1 – “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.”*

Now get this, there was a great spiritual thirst in Jerusalem at this time that only Jesus, the Messiah, could satisfy! Their need was for the spiritual life that comes from God’s Holy Spirit doing the work of regeneration in the heart!

Now, let’s understand the context of this statement by Jesus. It was made at this “*Feast of Tabernacles*” where Jesus was attending. That feast is also sometimes referred to as the “*Festival of Booths*” and it is also known as “*Succoth*” which means “*tents*” or “*tabernacles*”.

This was the **annual celebration** of the time when **Israel was wandering in the wilderness.** One of the things that they commemorated and celebrated was **the water that God gave them from the rock in the wilderness.**

Each day of this feast the priests would carry water from *the pool of Siloam* to the Temple and pour it out before the altar as a sacrifice and remembrance of that gift of water. *Siloam* was a man-made reservoir and was the only permanent water source for the city of Jerusalem at that time.

It was recorded among some of the Jewish writings that this was called “*the Messiah’s pool.*” The Old Testament clearly identifies the *Messiah* as the “*sent one*” numerous times, and *Siloam* is the same word in the Hebrew and the English transliteration of it is the word “*apostle, or missionary.*”

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If the rains did not come, the spring that fed the reservoir would not have the necessary water for Jerusalem’s needs. So this was also a time when they would offer prayers to God asking for rain to stave off a drought!

It was in this context that Jesus said, **“If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink.”** Jesus knew that after He was crucified He would arise from the dead and ascend back into Heaven and that He would pray for the Father to send the Holy Spirit to indwell every Believer!

In the same way that water is essential for us to have physical life, the Holy Spirit is essential for us to have Spiritual life. The Apostle Paul wrote: *Romans 8:9-11 – 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

When we were in **Chapter 3**, we saw Nicodemus—A Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews—who was a very religious man but was in need of being regenerated by the Spirit of God! He was full of religion, but he was also spiritually thirsty! What he needed was life! Spiritual life! But he didn’t know it or know what to do about it until Jesus told him and explained to him that he needed to be born again—i.e. Born of the Spirit!

When we were in **Chapter 4**, we saw a Samaritan woman at a well who was drawing water for her physical needs but was also Spiritually thirsty on so many different levels in her life. Being a “Samaritan” brought with it a rejection. Having been married five times meant she had been rejected at least that many times by men and the multiple marriages also brought its own rejection and stigma. Added to that is the fact that she was shacking up with one who was not her husband and that piled on even more rejection!

Jesus spoke to the woman asking for a physical drink from the well which surprised her because she could tell that He was obviously a Jew and the Jews didn’t have any dealings with the castoff Samaritan half-breed Jews!

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John 4:10 – “Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”

John 4:13-15–“Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14 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. 15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.”

After talking with Jesus she came to realize that indeed Jesus was obviously the Messiah! She left her waterpot and ran to tell the men of the city about her encounter with the Messiah!

Jesus had given her the assurance that even though the Jews had rejected her and even though her husbands had rejected her, and even though many of the town's people had rejected her, she could find satisfaction of her spiritual thirst through Him!

There are a lot of “thirsty” people in our world today! What we see played out in the news the world might see as being caused by **rejection of some sort, or injustice, or the environment** they were raised in. But all of the protests and riots and hatred and demands and **many different things that they long for will NOT do anything but just add to the thirst they have!**

Listen, their REAL need is for Jesus! Only Jesus can satisfy the longing in man’s soul that he was born with! This world will **continue to reject** and will **continue to act unjustly** and **continue to inflict pain and suffering** because that is what a world without Christ does!

But Jesus offers forgiveness for sins committed! Jesus offers acceptance! Jesus offers new life, His life, Resurrection life in place of the spiritual death that man came into the world with! **Jesus offers eternal joy** in a world that has no sustainable joy, just moments of it from time to time.

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Hurting souls are crying out for justice without realizing that **justice belongs to the LORD and their greatest need is for mercy! They need mercy for themselves and their family and other loved ones! Jesus died so that we might have mercy, and so that we might have grace and so that we might have peace, His peace that comes from His salvation, and so that we might have life and have it more abundantly!**

This world can and will only bring tribulation, trouble and trials!

John 16:33 – “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

Are you thirsty? When you are thirsty you need something to quench that thirst! Jesus has that something for the thirsting soul!

Matthew 5:6 – “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

If you are thirsty spiritually, then the Holy Spirit is what you need. **Only God’s Holy presence in your life can give you the hope and peace and joy that you thirst for.**

Through God’s Holy Spirit given by Christ at salvation, you can experience the love of God, the assurance of hope for the future, and the acceptance you crave! Only through the Spirit which comes from above can you receive the forgiveness and salvation that Jesus bought with His own blood for you on the cross!

If you are thirsty, Jesus invites you to come to Him and drink! *(Vs 37)*

Did you know the last invitation in the Word of God is the same invitation as we find here? Revelation 22:17–“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

Jesus has poured out His Holy Spirit! Come and drink! Let the Spirit of God well up in you! Then let Him flow out of you for the world to drink from too!