



What do You Want?
THE SIX WEEK
Pursuit

“What do you Thirst for?”

Pepsi? Coca-Cola? Root Beer? Tea, sweet or bitter? Coffee? Energy drinks? Or, dare I say, water? When you are thirsty, what beverage comes to your thoughts first? What do you THIRST for? Whatever your beverage of choice is, after a long stretch of work, a stressful circumstance, or simply a hot summer’s day, the THIRST for that choice refreshment dominates your thoughts. At times, the THIRST becomes so thought-encompassing that we will drive the extra distance just to retrieve our favorite liquid.

“What do you Thirst for?”

This very sensation is the THIRST Jesus references in John 4. After a long day of travel with his disciples, Jesus stops to rest at a well while the hungry young disciples go to town for food. While sitting at the well, Jesus is approached by a Samaritan woman. A deep conversation begins between the two; ending climactically with Jesus declaring Himself as the promised Messiah for all humanity. The woman is struck with awe and proceeds to invite her whole community to COME and SEE this amazing man named Jesus.

Yet before the crowds came, what first impressed this Samaritan about Jesus? It began with Jesus’ curious words: “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink’, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” Jesus elaborates further, stating that this “Living Water” He gives QUENCHES our THIRST. Even crazier, Jesus says His water transforms into a spring within our souls that gives eternal life.

At this time in their conversation, the woman is hooked. And the more time she spends with Jesus, the more she realizes just how incredible this man is. Finally, the encounter ends with the revelation:

JESUS QUENCHES OUR THIRST!!!

Whether you have been following Jesus for years or are new to Him, there is something gravitational about Jesus that pulls people in. He is a river in a dry land; a spring in the desert for our weary souls. Have you ever felt the refreshment of God's presence? That is just a taste of the water Jesus offers, and it is nothing like anything else in this world.

Just like the Samaritan woman, we are THIRSTY and searching for answers. In John 4, Jesus points out the woman has exhausted three husbands and was now living with her new boyfriend. She was searching for something to quench her THIRSTY soul; and no human companion could seem to fill the void.

"In Walks Jesus"

Every word from Jesus' mouth blows the Samaritan's mind. That is what it is like when Jesus walks into our lives. He QUENCHES the longing within us and satisfies our THIRST for more. A pastor once said: "The human soul has an infinite thirst. Who better to fulfill that infinite longing but an infinite God?"

So what are you PURSUING? What are you searching for? What do you want? I guarantee that Jesus is the answer to your soul's THIRST for meaning and significance.

Now at this point, it would seem our discussion is wrapping up, yet there is one more side to this coin that Jesus addresses in John 4. There is more to satisfying our souls than quenching our THIRST.

"How Do You Fight Hunger?"

We all get hungry. Liquids are satisfying and life-giving yet must be accompanied with the sustaining energy food offers. So, with that said, if Jesus addressed spiritual THIRST, then He must address spiritual HUNGER as well. And He does further along in John 4.

"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, there are yet four months, then comes the harvest? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.'"

“God’s Work fills our Hunger”

Specifically, sharing Jesus with others is what sustains our souls and fuels us with energy. Jesus reveals that our empty and THIRSTY souls can only be satisfied by Himself, Jesus the Son of God. But that is not all: Jesus further states that it is obeying the will of the Father which revitalizes us and energizes our souls. And that work is sharing Jesus with others and declaring who He is.

“What Do You Want?”

Do you feel THIRSTY within your soul? Do you feel dissatisfied or lacking in your life? Jesus is the solution and the giver of life. He is the life your soul is THIRSTING for.

How about you who are HUNGRY? Is your life feeling drained and mundane? Perhaps your soul, just like your stomach, is sending you a signal. Your soul needs to be re-energized by loving others and giving of yourself to God’s will and purpose. Jesus wants to satisfy your soul, so let’s step into His love and His plan and allow His presence to satisfy us to the uttermost.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Take a few minutes to discuss the following questions with your group.

- What does your soul thirst for? The Samaritan had a longing within her soul that could not be satisfied by anything in this world. Like her, what do you find yourself longing and dreaming of?
- What is the “promise of God” Jesus offers? How does this promise satisfy our souls?
- What did Jesus mean when He spoke of water that becomes an unending well inside our souls? How do you receive this water from Jesus?
- Jesus revealed our souls are not only thirsty for life, but hungry for purpose. What is the purpose and work Jesus offers to fill our hungry souls? How would you act on this work in your life?
- Staying with Jesus quenches our thirst. Where do you see a longing and thirst in your life? How do you believe Jesus can fulfill that desire?
- Obedience to God fills our hunger. What actions do you need to take in your life to do God’s work and be obedient?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

If you have children, here are some questions you can go over with them.

- What is your favorite Drink?
- What kind of BIG dreams do you have? What do you want to do when you grow up?
- Did you know you have a soul? Jesus says He is what your soul needs. Why would Jesus say that?
- Have you ever spent time with Jesus? What is it like to spend time with Jesus? What does spending time with Jesus feel like?

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together in prayer. Here are a few ideas of what you could pray about based on the topic of today's discussion:

- Pray for God's presence to overflow in your life.
- Ask God to stir a longing within you for His presence and to open your eyes to His presence.
- Ask God to show you His love.
- Pray for strength, especially if you are discouraged or drained. Ask God to give you new energy and life.
- Ask God for boldness to share Jesus and do the work of God. Pray for His presence to encourage you with new life and give you courage.

THIS WEEK...

This week, set aside one thing you crave. This could be a drink, a food, a habit, your cell phone, perhaps television time, a hobby, etc. Set that one thing you crave aside for one day and instead focus on Jesus. This is spiritual fasting; setting aside what our physical self wants to seek Jesus. Replace your time with that hobby praying, reading the Scriptures, talking with a friend about Jesus, listening to Worship, or anything you think of that brings you to Jesus. The goal is to bring Jesus into the center and remind ourselves that Jesus is the only one who can satisfy our thirsty longing souls.