

# ***LIFE Huddle:*** *Getting together to talk through issues of life*

## **Subject: Dying of Thirst**

I've always wondered what is it about those good, God-fearing people who tend to be drawn toward things that contribute nothing to their eternal joy. Perhaps you've seen it in the pure-hearted lady who sincerely desires to sit at the feet of Jesus, but she happens to be emotionally wrapped up in a man who has absolutely no interest in evaluating his own need for a relationship with the Creator. Or what about the guy who models integrity & humility, but secretly struggles with a hidden longing to advance his career for the sole purpose of acceptance? Somewhere along the way, idolatry has crept in, resulting in a parched soul suffering from spiritual dehydration.

In John 7:37, Jesus yells to a crowd gathered at the Feast of Tabernacles saying, "*If you are thirsty, come to me, and drink.*" In just those few words, we're given the steps necessary to quench a thirst of any proportion.

**Step One:** Jesus says that we must accept the fact that we are thirsty. Look very carefully at that verse again. The first word is "If". "If" in the Greek carries the same meaning as "Since". So in essence, Jesus is saying that all of us are thirsty for something. And if this is ignored, it very likely will manifest itself in spiritual dehydration.

From a physical standpoint, dehydration occurs when a person is thirsty, but his/her internal thirst mechanism malfunctions. When this happens, food cravings, hunger pangs, and other non-thirst symptoms that seem to bear no relation to a need for water appear. So, instead of getting water, this person will go get something to eat.

Spiritually, some of us are the same way. We repeatedly quench the Holy Spirit to the point where we start to wonder "Is God leading me to do this?" or "Is it just me?" (internal thirst mechanism malfunction). But instead of going to the true source of our hydration, we'll pacify ourselves with \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank).

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**Step Two:** Jesus says that we must come to Him. God will manifest Himself in direct proportion to our passion for Him (see Jeremiah 29:13). More times than not though, our idols get our passion, thus contributing to our spiritual dehydration.

Idols are essentially one-night stands. They provide a temporary moment of empty pleasure, but there is no lasting joy in them. Serving idols may be much easier than serving God, since the idols don't require inner sacrifice. Coming to Jesus requires a sacrifice.

Where you spend your time & money is the surest indication of what you really value. And this is a great starting point to evaluate idols (or potential idols) in your own life. Only after doing this will responding to the call of Christ prove beneficial.

**Step Three:** Jesus says that we must drink. The Holy Spirit, which is often symbolized in the Bible as water, wants to saturate your life for two primary reasons: 1. So that you'll be ever aware of His presence. 2. So that the world and the things of the flesh will not have you in its grip. Taking the initiative to drink of this living water gives us what's necessary to control these idols and not vice versa. Like the woman at the well in John 4, often times we're not even aware we're dying of thirst.

I'm concerned that we aren't disturbed enough with the varying forms of thirst that we regularly see in the world around us. I've been praying that as you read this, you would honestly assess yourself and recognize the areas of your life that need re-hydration. If your heart's cry is like that of David's in Psalm 63:1 ("O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water."), follow the progression: You thirst. Therefore, you must come and you must drink.

**P2R (Point 2 Remember):** The "thirstiest" people are often times the ones least likely to acknowledge it.

***LIFE Huddle: #Pursuit***

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