

## Brand New Pt. 3: Thirsty Souls

**-Recap:**

**Hijacked Emphasis:**

*--emPHAsis on the wrong syLLABle .....*

**-2 Weeks ago we established that the American Church has put the emphASIS on the wrong syLABle of the message of Jesus.**

-If you ask 100 American Christians what the central teaching of Christianity is, most would say “Jesus died for you sins”.

-that is a crucial point

-But for the earliest Jesus followers The Resurrection was the Emphasis.

-1 Corinthians 15:3-6 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep

-climax of the story is the resurrection

-verses 20-22 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 **For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.**

-this resurrection has implications for ALL who are in Christ

-verses 51-52 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will **all be changed**— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

-while we will be flesh and blood in the Resurrection,,, we will be MORE than we are now

-eternal (undying) -incorruptible. -immortal (not having the same limitations...)

**-The promise of Easter is more than just going to heaven some day. We will be raised to Eternal, Physical, Incorruptible life.**

*-The Apostle John received a vision of this promised event from God and wrote about it.....*

-Revelation 21:1-5 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” 5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

**-The fact that Jesus raised from the dead means that He will Resurrect everything else also..... He will make everything BRAND NEW**

**-what are the implications for us here and now???**

-Week 1 we talked about the Resurrection being the end of **Fear**, Last week we talked about the Resurrection and the end of **Frustration**

*-here is where we are going today*

-Revelation 21: 5-6 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."  
6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

*-here is what these verses are saying*

-There is something God set in Motion that he will also finalize

-there is this thing he is calling the "spring of the water of life";;;He is offering a drink from that at no cost

-THAT DRINK WILL QUENCH some thirst in us that has been nagging us since the beginning

-So here is the moment that God gives us an answer or a solution. But is there a scripture that talks about the question or the problem?

-James 4:1-6 Where do you think your fighting and endless conflict come from? Don't you think that they originate in the constant pursuit of gratification that rages inside each of you like an uncontrolled militia? 2 You crave something that you do not possess, so you murder to get it. You desire the things you cannot earn, so you sue others and fight for what you want. .... 5 Do you think it is empty rhetoric when the Scriptures say, "The spirit that lives in us is addicted to envy and jealousy"? 6 You may think that the situation is hopeless, but God gives us more grace when we turn away from our own interests.

*(the Voice translation)*

*-New King James version says it like this "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?*

## **People have Thirsty Souls.**

-James said that we are ADDICTED TO ENVY.

-as if "an uncontrolled militia is living inside of us"

-We are in constant conflict because our hearts just want.

-we want Our way,,, Our opinion to matter,,, we want recognition,,, we want stuff,,, we want a good time,,,,, more money in the account,,, more security or prestige,

*-Bruce Springstein sung about this saying "everybody's got a hungry heart."*

*-Bono from the band U2 said it like this:*

- I have climbed the highest mountains,,,I have run through the fields ,,Only to be with you

I have run I have crawled,,, I have scaled these city walls,,,,,Only to be with you,,,,,But I still haven't found. What I'm looking for....

I have kissed honey lips,,, Felt the healing in the fingertips,,,,,It burned like fire,,,,,, This burning desire

I have spoke with the tongue of angels,,,,,, I have held the hand of a devil,,,,,It was warm in the night,,,,,I was cold as a stone,,,,,, But I still haven't found. What I'm looking for  
I believe in the Kingdom come,,,,, Then all the colors will bleed into one,,,But yes, I'm still running  
You broke the bonds,,,,,and you loosened chains,,,carried the cross of my shame, of my shame,,,,, You know I believe it  
But I still haven't found,,,,,, What I'm looking for

-Bono was saying there is a yearning inside of me, NOTHING IN THIS WORLD SATISFIES.

-Bruce and Bono were saying the same thing Jesus' little brother James said.

-God put a hungry and thirsty heart in you,,, its how you were built

## **Thirsty souls can drive us toward all kinds of madness.**

-Since we cannot find THE THING we find something that comes close.

-things offer exhilaration for limited periods of time

### **-love and romance satisfy our hearts for a time**

-but eventually the Infatuation wears off and even if the relationship doesn't turn bad..... it just doesn't satisfy that inner longing the way it did at first

### **-physical lusts and appetites can seem to satisfy for a time:**

-we get addicted to sensuality and sexuality,,, whether real life or ,, imagination...

-we get a good feeling from a high or drunken exuberance

### **-accomplishments and recognition can scratch us where we itch for a time**

-but yesterdays accolades never hold us over for today

-so its never enough,,,,, you live on a treadmill.....

### **-accumulation:** stuff will meet the needs in your heart for a time

-get bored and restless so you Remodel something at home

-get restless so you buy a new wardrobe

-get bored, so you treat yourself to a new car

*-these things definitely distract you and lift your feelings for a while*

### **-if we are church people we USE RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE AND OUR OWN PERSONAL SPIRITUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT, to feed this hunger and thirst**

-believe it or not this can be especially damaging

-you will never feel like you are good enough or like you have ever accomplished enough

-you will feel spiritually insecure and UNDER COMPULSION all the time

-Our hearts are simply hard wired to want.

-And when we connect that want to the wrong thing, the compulsive patterns can make huge messes in our lives.

*-Illustration: Itchy Back:::* weird nerve damage causing Numb but itchy spots on my back

-Thank God for a good wife who will scratch my back at a moments notice...

-if she is not around I will do crazy stuff: door ways,,, lamp posts,,,,, strangers side view car mirrors,,,,, random sticks and pieces of jagged metal ..... machete

-As we do this stuff we are trying to scratch an itch that will not go away with things that will eventually hurt us.... (machete)

*-Quote : "If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."  
C. S. Lewis*

## **Point: As his Image Bearers we were created to Receive and Reflect the Glory of God.**

-What Lewis said is true, there is an itch nothing will scratch,, nothing in this current world.

-There was something that was included in our original design that is now lacking or insufficient and it causes a constant desire in our inner most being.

-What is it that we are missing?

-You were created in God's image to be shined upon by the light of his glory and goodness.

-Once shined upon you were specially crafted to receive the warmth and beauty of him and to REFLECT it outward on creation.....

**-That is why you are the only thing in all creation that is both Spiritual and Physical,,,, your purpose was to bridge the gap between a Spiritual God and this physical world**

*-Illustration: Solar Panels*

-think of how a solar panel absorbs the heat and light energy of the sun and concentrates it,, it converts it into useable energy propelling things forward

-Humans were build to work like that, by receiving and reflecting the Glory of God

-God radiates: brilliance, truth, goodness, love, ingenuity, creativity, beauty , order,....

=we were built to be the only thing in creation that can ABSORB that DIVINE LIGHT,, and translate that it into Actions that reflect God. (which then shape the physical world to reflect him)

*-when you foster parent, you are working like a solar panel,, receiving his love, compassion, and redemptive glory concentrating it and translating it into actions that reflect him*

*-when you love your neighbor even when they are challenging << receiving and reflecting*

-Here is where our problem comes in. Just like solar panels need full sun to work well, we need to be fully immersed in God's presence for our Receiving and Reflecting to function well.

*-with solar power, on cloudy days it is easy to begin to have a power deficit,,, because you are drawing out faster than the sun is putting in.*

*-We were calibrated to LIVE IN GODS FULL PRESENCE.*

*-anything less than that causes us to run at a deficit*

*-draining our batteries faster than we are Charging them*

-Originally before Sin, Humanity lived in the Uninterrupted Presence of God.

*-we were surround and enveloped at all times by his glory and light*

*-we were in contact with "ALL OF HIM, ALL OF THE TIME"*

-Sin brought separation between Humanity and God.

*-even though Jesus Reconnects us to God,,,, we do not currently live completely immersed in his Presence YET*

-There is some of the Light and Brilliance of God's presence shining on us , but not enough to keep our batteries from operating at a deficit.

## **-Here and now there are 2 things our hearts constantly hunger for: Receiving from God. Reflecting God**

*-we hunger for him intellectually in our minds,,,, his wisdom, clarity, truth*

*-we hunger for him in our heart and emotion,,, to feel his love and his approval,*

*-we hunger to feel the full union of Spirit and Flesh through fellowship with other people,,,, we all hunger to connect with the heart and soul of others,,,, there is a relational communal need in us,,, because we are built in God's image and thats how he is*

**-whether we realize it or not we also hunger to Reflect God**

*-when we serve the hurting and the needy and see the look on someone's face after the love and dignity of God has been bestowed on them,,, OH MAN....*

*-when we see people lost in hurt and brokenness of sin,,,, and Jesus shines light through us and they experience the LIGHT OF GOD WARMING THEM,,,,,*

**-when we reflect God in these ways,,,, it satisfies something in us nothing else does**

-Jesus was reflecting the Light of God to the Samaritan Woman at the Well when the disciples tried to get him to stop talking to her and eat lunch.

**-Jesus replied "I have food that you know nothing of"**

*-in other words what he was doing right then fed him in ways that nothing else could*

–But as brilliant as these moments are, they are **NOT THE FULL AMOUNT** God designed us to Run On.

-that verse in James tells us our hearts are hopelessly hungry, but that GOD GIVES GRACE..... it tells us to fill our batteries on Him,,, Not on this World...

-it is giving us the solution to manage our hearts in the here and now

-On this side of Eternity the best we can do is to focus on RECEIVING AND REFLECTING his glory

-in so doing we will **MANAGE OUR HUNGRY / THIRSTY HEARTS**

**In the Resurrection the light and warmth that our batteries were built to run on will exist in full Abundance.**

-That is what Jesus was talking about when John quoted him in Revelation:

**-I am the BEGINNING and THE END. The ALPHA and OMEGA**

-I am the one who Initiated this process and I now I AM THE FULFILLMENT OF IT

*-this thirst was created EONS ago, and in the Resurrection life we will be forever Immersed in the thing that quenches the thirst.*

-It is like our souls have a 6th Sense. And only in Eternity, in the Full and Actual presence of God will we find the Sensation this sense was built to process.

-We will be so immersed God's presence and Glory that we will Spend all of Eternity Receiving it on our Solar Panels,,,, Processing it Internally,,, and Reflecting it out Shaping Creation for EVER AND EVER AND EVER.

-that process is what your heart has always wanted

-In Eternity this Itch, this thirst, this hunger will be fully and finally satisfied.

**-Application:**

-Learn to recognize and direct your thirsty soul....

-Manage your hungry heart by Feeding yourself with God's Glory : Intellectually, Relationally, and Spiritually

-Fyi that is one reason we worship together each week as Christians

-Many of you know but some don't,,,, something transcendent takes place when we find our way into God's presence in worship,,,,, Our solar panels are exposed to the Light of his glory

**-but taking in his glory is just half of it,,,, You were built to receive and reflect**

-when you find ways to be used for God's glory,,,,, it satisfies your soul

-Because of the state of the world and the Lack of God's constant presence we must stay proactive:::: continually Receiving and Reflecting ,,,,, to keep our Souls from Growing thirsty and leading us into damaging fillers....

**-but remember this,,, no matter how well you do with all of that,,, Here in this world and this age You will still Feel the push of a Thirsty Soul at times**

**-When Jesus returns,,, only on the other side of Eternity our Hearts will finally and fully be FILLED.**