

Text: John 7:37-38

Theme: The Great Thirst Quencher

June 4, 2017

On a hot summer's day, what's the best drink to quench your thirst? I'm sure if we took a poll, we would find all sorts of answers from water or gatorade to something a bit more powerful. Fortunately for us this morning, we don't actually need to answer that question. However, there is another question that does need an answer, a question Jesus offers to answer as He seeks to quench our spiritual thirst, a thirst that provides relief far beyond a hot summer's day, relief into eternity.

I. Christ is our great thirst quencher. A. And we are numbered among the thirsty people. 1. We are thirsty because we were born thirsty. How many times have you heard someone say, "I can't help it; I was born that way!" In most cases, that statement is an excuse. But in the spiritual realm, we were born thirsty, born dead in sin, born to live, die, and spend eternity apart from God. Suppose someone dropped you in the middle of a desert with eight ounces of water and said, "I'll be back to get you in a month." What would be your prognosis of survival? Spiritually, that was our condition. Left to ourselves, eternal death was our only option.

2. We are thirsty because we fail to understand our problem. Have you ever tried to explain something to someone and they just don't get it? It doesn't register or goes in one ear and out the other? Spiritually speaking, we are thirsty because we don't understand our problem. When someone explains it, it sounds so simple, but when we apply it to ourselves, it makes no sense or we simply choose not to believe it. In simple terms, this is our problem: We are born with no interest in God. It sounds clear, but when we say, "I was born with no interest in God. I was born as an enemy of God," we don't like what we hear, so we either tune it out or deny it.

3. Another reason we are thirsty is because we foolishly think we can handle life on our own. How many of life's tough moments can you fix? Can you fix the pain of the loss of a loved one? Can you answer those questions no one else can answer? Can you fix your life when it's broken? In our foolish moments, we like to think, "I can do it." but the reality is that we can't. You can't fix what's broken in your life. I can't fix what's broken in my life. You can try; I can try, but when it comes to anything in the faith-realm, we are helpless. We're like the ant trying to cross a six-lane interstate in rush hour traffic. Not likely to happen and live to tell about it.

B. Since we are thirsty, what does our great Thirst Quencher offer us? 1. He offers to revive us. His means? The waters of Baptism. Through an event that appears so simple, God brings us back to life. In that moment, He gives us the gift of the Spirit. In our second reading, we read about the amazing events of Pentecost, when the people were filled with the Holy Spirit. We may not see tongues of fire at the moment of Baptism, but, in that moment, God says, "\_\_\_\_\_, you have now become a child of God. You are now part of My family, the greatest family on earth. As My child, I will protect that gift of faith by personally dwelling in your heart."

2. He offers us a purpose for living. How many people could you name that are putting in their time, marking the days? If that's all we're doing, we're merely subsisting, keeping the body alive. Our great Thirst Quencher offers you an amazing purpose for living. He sets you on a mission and says, "Go. You may not know where your next step will lead or how you will accomplish My next task, but

when you are on My mission, expect life to be a grand adventure.” An adventure - That’s what our Thirst Quencher offers us. Our days won’t always be great, but we always know that we are in this place for such a time as this to carry out His mission.

3. He offers us the power and privilege of prayer. What would life be like if you could see your parents through a cloudy window, but could never communicate with them? What would life be like if you could see God, but there was a soundproof barrier between you and Him? In this moment, you and I, we have the amazing privilege of talking to God, of making our requests and offering our praise and appreciation. What a wonderful opportunity He has given us. He could have left us to ourselves, to wander through life on our own. But instead, He invites us into His presence! What an amazing privilege He has given us.

4. He offers us a servant’s heart. Why are some people so kind, caring, thoughtful, and understanding? Were they simply born that way and others were cursed with a crabby heart? Absolutely not! As Jesus invites us to come to Him, He says, “I want to give you a gift to share with others. It’s a precious gift because it comes from Me.” And then, He opens our hearts and sets within us a servant’s heart, a heart of compassion, a caring heart, a heart that notices and acts upon the needs of others. The more you use that heart, the more that care and compassion grows, and the more it grows, the more hearts God will touch through you.

5. He offers us the ability to face tomorrow. Several years ago, there was a TV show called, “Early Edition,” where the guy would get tomorrow’s newspaper today. As a result, he could prevent disasters because he knew what was going to happen before it happened. We may not get the Early Edition, but, even so, our Thirst Quencher says to us, “Whatever tomorrow may bring, place it into My hands. I promise I will provide everything you need to face tomorrow. It may arrive only moments before you need it, but trust Me. It will always arrive. I have never, in all of history, forgotten to provide a single person with what they needed to face tomorrow.”

6. He offers us eternity. With the Spirit living in our hearts, we have eternity in our hearts. But what if eternity didn’t exist? What if the first hundred years was all there was, that life ended at the moment of death. What would be the point of living? Hope would be useless; tomorrow wouldn’t matter, and next year would never be anything more than just another year closer to the end. To our Thirst Quencher, this is merely His training grounds for eternity. Once we’ve completed our training, Jesus says, “Come you who are blessed by My Father. Come and inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the beginning of the world!”

7. Whether Pepsi, diet Coke, water, gatorade, or some other beverage quenches your thirst or not, doesn’t matter. At the end of the day, what matters is that we know we are thirsty and that we know the power of the One we call, the “great Thirst Quencher.” Amen.