

- [1] "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.
- [2] Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.
- [3] Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.
- [4] See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples.
- [5] Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will
hasten to you, because of the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor."

Satisfaction guaranteed! You hear that promise so often that it has become a byword. We love the idea of satisfaction. Yet are we ever really satisfied? We talk about customer satisfaction. I've seen articles and books about job satisfaction. The Rolling Stones bemoaned the fact that "I can't get no satisfaction, and I try, and I try and I try and I try."

What would you do if you suddenly had a million dollars? Several states like ours have now legalized the lottery and some people have become instant millionaires. Are those people more satisfied now than they were before? The answer to that is a resounding NO! The research shows that those who were satisfied before they won the money continued to be satisfied and those who were not satisfied before they came upon the fortune continued to be dissatisfied. Some might think that God wants to take away all the fun and God doesn't want us to be satisfied. God *wants* us to be satisfied, but He wants us to be satisfied in that which is satisfactory. He is the satisfactory One. As John Piper tells us, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." So, how can you find satisfaction, the real satisfaction from God?

I. YOU HAVE TO BE THIRSTY: "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters" The first step to satisfaction is dissatisfaction. To be satisfied, you first have to be unsatisfied. To be filled, you first have to be empty. To have your thirst quenched, you first have to be thirsty. This passage starts off with the most universal possible term. It is addressed to "everyone." It does not matter if you are rich or poor, black or white, male or female. This is something that is offered to all. Or is it? As I look at this passage, I am struck by the fact that there is indeed a requirement for those who would come. The requirement is that you must be thirsty. Our problem is that we often do not recognize our thirst or, when we do, we look for the wrong sorts of things to fill it.

She was a woman who had been around and it showed, if not on her face, then in the deeper recesses of her heart. When it came to picking men, she had plenty of experience and all of it was bad. One relationship after another had ended in disaster. Then one afternoon, she went down to the well to draw water and found a Galilean rabbi there. The last thing she wanted was to get into a religious discussion, but she was drawn to what he was saying when he began speaking to her about her need for living water -- a lasting, spiritual, never-ending source of spiritual water that would refresh her tired soul. He does the same thing to us today. There are things that the Lord brings into our lives that are designed to increase our thirst.

Steph was sick this past week and was getting a little dehydrated since she couldn't keep anything down. Thursday morning I went and got her some Sprite® to try and keep her hydrated. Our bodies are designed to get thirsty. Our bodies tell us when it is dehydrated. It is called thirst. When our lives are in need of the living water of God, we thirst for something more. We need to listen to that thirst. When your job and your income, your hobbies and your recreation do not satisfy – you thirst for something greater and more necessary. God is waiting to fill you with satisfaction from his well. Has the Lord been turning up the heat in your life lately? It might be that He is at work in your life to create a thirst for that which only He can satisfy.

II. YOU HAVE TO BE WITHOUT RESOURCES

And you who have no money come (Isaiah 55:1).

To be satisfied, you not only have to be dissatisfied, you also have to be unable to satisfy yourself with that which you have at hand. Jesus said, **Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven** (Matthew 5:3). Poverty is when you don't have something. Of course, we know that poverty can be a bit relative. There are poor and there are very poor. This is not speaking of the one who is merely part of the lower middle class. It speaks to the one who is spiritually bankrupt and destitute. In fact, it is only when you come to terms with the fact that you are spiritually bankrupt that you can be saved. Salvation begins with the admission that you are unsaved. Redemption begins with the realization that you are a slave to sin. It is only when you admit your spiritual poverty that God gives to you all of the riches that are in Christ Jesus.

Jesus spoke to a spiritually bankrupt man: a Rich Young Ruler who seemingly had everything. He asked Jesus about eternal life and how he could have it. Jesus, sensing that the man was holding back, said “take all you have and sell it and give it to the poor.” The man responded by walking away. He couldn't do it. He could not give up his wealth to receive eternal life. That man, although it seemed like he had everything, had nothing of value. Jesus is saying, **“You who have no money and you who have no spiritual resources, COME”**

You can never really come to Christ unless you have a sense of your own spiritual bankruptcy. He does not allow you to come unless you realize that you are unworthy. His salvation is not for the self-sufficient, they have no reason to trust in Christ. God does not save the self-sufficient. He only saves those who have found their sufficiency in Christ. Why is it hard for a

rich man to be saved? Because such a man has gotten used to trusting in his riches for his daily needs instead of trusting in the Lord for his daily needs.

III. YOU HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT FOR WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN LABORING IS UNSATISFACTORY:

Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? (55:2).

We are all laboring for something and most of us have things in life for which we are expending time and energy and effort that goes beyond the “basic necessities. ”What is it in your case? Are you on a quest for security? (love, financial security) How about significance? (fame, value, life is worthwhile) A lot of people are looking for youth? (Botox, a younger spouse, etc) Still others are searching for that special someone in their life? Pleasure is another great quest we go on to find excitement In a book by Dahl written in the early 70s titled, WORK, PLAY, AND WORSHIP IN A LEISURE-ORIENTED SOCIETY is noted for declaring, “Our problem today is that we worship our work, work at our play, and play at our worship”

There was once a man who tried it all. Wealth. Relationships. Pleasure. Knowledge. He had it all and he tried it all. He was a man who drank deeply from the well of human experience. His name was Solomon. When he was done, he looked back over his life and he summed it up in a single word: “Emptiness. ” How long will it take before people in our time like you and me come to the same conclusion? How many mirages will you chase? How many fantasies will you pursue? How many dreams will you chase only to find that “having” is an empty echo of “wanting?”

IV. YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO GOD’S GOOD NEWS:

Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance. Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live (55:2-3).

Notice the verbs that are used in these two verses: --Listen. -- Eat. --Delight. --Incline your ear. --Listen. Real listening is more than the auditory impulses upon the ear. Instead, it sends a message to the mind and it responds in action. That is what we see in this passage. It is a call to listen -- a call to eat -- a call to delight -- a call to BELIEVE. In John 6 where Jesus says that all who come to Him must be willing to eat of His body and to drink of His flesh. This brings us to an important distinction: Jesus not only BRINGS the good news; He IS the good news. That is what God has done for you. He has entered into an eternal relationship with you. He has formed a covenant with you. He loves you and has given Himself for you.

He fills you with that which will satisfy and you will not hunger for the material things and the status the world offers. He gives you lasting hope and purpose.