

The Hunt for Satisfaction

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Text: John 7:37-39

Introduction:

It is evident by History; man has an innate desire to worship a God. From the earliest writings, we find that mankind has worshipped some God. Abraham, who became the father of our faith, his people worshipped the sun god. Egypt worshipped the golden calf. The Philistines worshipped Dagon and other gods. Even in the New Testament, Athens, where Paul preached at Mars hill was filled with monuments to every God. They also had one for the unknown God that gave Paul his platform to preach Christ. The Ephesians were noted for there pagan worship of the goddess Diana.

Today, we see thousands flowing into arenas and stadiums who pay thousands of dollars to hear someone tell them about crystals, and eastern religious practices. The New Age religion is purely satanic, but it provides a touch with the supernatural. That is what man is looking for, a touch with the supernatural.

In our text, we see Jesus with His disciples celebrating the Feast of the Tabernacles. This feast is observed by a priest who brought water from the pool of Siloam. This water was symbolic of the water that flowed from the rock for the children of Israel in Exodus seventeen. This water was then poured over the altar as an offering to God. While the water was being poured out the people shouted and sang. This feast was eight days long. The first day and the last day of the feast, no one could work. Each of the eight days of the feast, an offering of fire was given to the Lord. Jesus was the fulfillment of all that this feast conveys. Paul defined this in I Corinthians 10:4 when he said, *“And all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.*

Just like the children of Israel were physically thirsty, the world is spiritually thirsty. They are running to many different wells. However, there is only on true well that satisfies, and that well is Jesus.

g The well-known scientist and author Carl Sagan, in a PBS documentary titled “Chariots of the Gods,” commented on the new optimism that there is life elsewhere in the universe: “It’s nice to think that there is someone out there that can help us.”

Unfortunately, this remark implies that for Sagan there is no god, and so his hope of help from other beings is blind hope, a hope that assumes that other beings exist and that their race will not be affected with the depravity that is so evident in all human endeavor. And that they would be interested in helping us. Green (313)

Whether they are looking for a god to worship or an alien to deliver them, the problem is the same. Man has a thirst that needs to be satisfied. Mankind is characterized by these “needs.”

- I. There is a need for a person’s thirst to be satisfied.
 - A. Since everyone is born with this innate need to worship a god or to get in touch with the supernatural, it is understandable how our world has gone crazy trying to find other ways to heaven.
 - B. This thirst that man has cannot be satisfied with anything less than the supernatural. That is why so many religions exist; many of them are cults or practices that glorify man and not God.
 - C. This thirst never relents or goes away until it is satisfied.
- g D. L. Moody once said, “ How this world is thirsting for something that will satisfy! What fills the places of amusement, the dance houses, the music halls, and the theaters, night after night? Men and women are thirsting for something they don’t have. The moment a man turns his back upon God, he begins to thirst; and the thirst will never be quenched until he returns to “the fountain of living waters.” As the prophet Jeremiah tells us, we have forsaken the fountain of living waters, and hewn out for ourselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. There is a thirst this world can never quench: the more we drink of its pleasures, the thirstier we become. We cry out for more and more, and we are all the while being dragged down lower and lower. But there is a fountain opened to the house of David for sin, and for uncleanness. Let us press up to it, and drink and live.
Reed (258)

II. Mankind has a need for a place to come to worship.

- A. The Christian has the house of God, where we gather to worship and have communion with our God. The Bible teaches, “ *God is a spirit and those that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.*”
- B. Man’s need to worship God will drive him to go wherever he needs to go to be satisfied. There have been several articles where thousands upon thousands have gone to special events that are introducing new age paraphernalia. They pay exurbanite prices because they want to touch the supernatural.
- C. Man needs a direction for his life and answers to his questions.
 - He needs to know who God is and what He wants us to do.
 - He needs to know where did he come from and why am I here
 - He needs to know what is there life after death.
 - He needs to know when will he be literally with God.

III. Everyone has a need to become one with God.

- A. This is why Jesus told them to drink. There is an old adage that says “you can lead a horse to the water but you can’t make him drink” One fellow told me that was true but he bet he could make that horse thirsty enough to drink.
- B. Man’s heart needs to be filled by God. Jesus went away and sent us the comforter, the Holy Ghost. Here He speaks of us needing to receive this promised one. When He comes in, we will be filled. Salvation relieves us of our guilt and shame and it makes us thirsty for more of God.
- C. Mankind needs a drink of the Holy Ghost. He needs to feel God in his life. The Holy Ghost came to make us fountains of living water just like Christ.

Conclusion:

Jesus spoke of the Holy Ghost coming into our lives and producing “rivers of living waters.” We become witnesses through which God’s word, God’s love, and God’s power can flow. This flow of God will satisfy the thirsty and it will cause the rest of the world to thirst for God.

Giving the world the gift of Christ is the greatest gift a man can give. The “needs” of mankind will then be met if we give the living water of Christ to the world.

- g From Patrick Henry’s will: “I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them and that is faith in Jesus Christ. If they had that and I had that and I had not given them one shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor indeed.”
Hughes (371)

References

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