

"The Thirst of the Soul"

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O. M.

Scripture Lesson:-

Text:- St. John 4: 15. "The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw".

Introduction:- The cry for water is the most urgent of the physical appetites which has to do with sustaining life. The cry for water in the physical man is more urgent than the cry for food.

This has been the cry of multitudes on the burning sands of the deserts of the world. In great thirst the cry has been, "Water! Water! Water!"

There is a thirst for God that is as universal as the thirst for water. This thirst and cry for God in man is manifested in the restless quest, in the ceaseless search, on the part of man for something. Man has within his bosom certain infinite longings which nothing can satisfy but an infinite God.

The invitation is given: "Come ye to the waters". There are perennial fountains which never run dry to which the soul of man is invited to come and drink, and slake his thirst. These waters were spoken of by Jesus during the days of his earthly ministry.

I.

Jesus spoke of this water to the woman at the well. He told her of water that was not in the well. His words concerning the water not in the well caused the woman to seek and obtain this water. She was longing for something she did not have. There was a deep need in her life that had never been met. There was a cry for something that had never been answered. But when she met Jesus that day at the well, she found the fountain that never runs dry. This water which she found so enriched her life that she was not satisfied to keep it to herself, but set about imme-

diately to tell the people of the village where she lived about a fountain that would slake their thirst, and satisfy their souls.

We must have something more than that which we call the ordinary in the natural processes of life. We must have something more than the mere ritualism and ecclesiasticism of religion. We must have the water of life. Jesus spoke of a perpetual fountain which may well up in the human heart. He said to his disciples: "Out of your hearts shall flow rivers of living water, but this spake he of the Spirit that they which believe on him shall receive."

This is the fountain the world is thirsting for. Whatever may be found in life of man in the form of religious pilgrimages, the reverence for sacred signs, the trust in ecclesiastical orders and ceremonies, all point to one and the same thing: a thirst for the water of life.

II.

Throughout the whole of human history man has recognized water as an element essential to his physical wellbeing, his happiness, and even his very existence. Great civilizations have been built upon the great watercourses of the world. The ancient kingdoms of Babylon and Nineveh were built along the water courses of the Tigris and the Euphrates. The land of Palestine with its remarkable history of the peoples of the Canaanites, and later of the Israelites, centered its civilization around the Jordan and the sea of Galilee. The great Egyptian civilization was built along the river Nile., the mighty Roman civilization centered around the river Po. London was built on the Thames, New York city on the Hudson, and San Francisco on San Francisco bay. It is interesting to trace the ebb and flow of the tides of civilization as they have followed the water courses of the world.

The early pioneers, in building our early American civilization, hugged the watercourses in

the building of their homes, their cities, and the transcontinental trails by which they made the long trek to the far west. The whole of the human family has rendered a unanimous verdict as to the wellbeing and the happiness and perpetuity of mankind.

Neither has this essentiality decreased or diminished with the modern progress or the multiplicity of many new inventions. The same cry for the necessity of water is heard by the people of all races, and all intellectual and economic levels, as in the days of long ago.

III.

There are some things which are abiding in the human family. There are some things that are written deep in the constitution of the race that will never be lifted or taken out by any advancement or progress that men make. One of the things which is written deep in the constitution of man's spiritual nature is the essentiality of water. Water for his physical wellbeing, his happiness and for his continued existence is essential.

In a much higher sphere we find constitution of man's spiritual nature. It is his thirst and cry for the water of life, a water that is eternal, and can satisfy the deep inner cravings of his soul. The cry and need for water has been written deep in the constitution of man's physical nature; and no water been provided, think what a mockery, what an inconsistency would have existed.

Man created in his physical nature with a cry for water as essential to his wellbeing, happiness and perpetuity, and no water provided, would have made an anomaly in creation which would have been a sufficient testimony that man came into being by blind chance, and there is no intelligent Creator back of the universe. A similar anomaly in creation would have existed had man been created with his present spiritual nature, having written indelibly in it a thirst and a cry for the water

of life, without the provision of such water.

Thank God no such anomaly exists in the realm of the Spirit, for the water of life has been provided. Jesus said to the woman of Samaria at the well; "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but it shall be in him a well of water, springing up into everlasting life." This is the water that the world is thirsting for. *People running here & there seeking to satisfy the longing*

Pleasure - wealth - fame - home - clothes

Yes, the water that the world is thirsting for is at hand. Yet, we have so many people who do not ~~see~~ seem to realize it. They fill their hunger with the foolish things that the world provides, and are always thirsty and hungry. If they would only take good spiritual drink of the water of eternal life, they would be abundantly satisfied and filled.

Have you tasted the water of eternal life? Do you know what Jesus meant when he said, "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again, but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst." But you say, "how shall I get this water?" That is so easy, just kneel at the cross and look up and say, "Jesus, give me the water of eternal life."

Hymn- "Kneel at the Cross"

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