

THE GREATNESS OF GOD
Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-42

Every living creation on earth knows how important water is and how water plays a major factor in every life on earth.

And come to think of it, especially these days, the call of all experts and all medical and even government heads is to be clean and to be sanitized with all forms of dirt because a dreaded virus is on the rise. It is fast, it is swift and can contaminate even those who belong to the rich and famous without prejudice to societal position and ranks.

While we may have all the cleansing agents like the alcohol, sanitizers, cleansing gels and all sorts, still the base of all these chemicals is water. There is still no known best cleansing agent than that of water.

In our scriptural readings today, water is sought by the wandering Hebrew people and even Jesus went beside the well where He found a Samaritan woman drawing water from it.

From our New testament reading it says, And Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Science tells us that our bodies are over 98% water. We know that human beings can live weeks without food, but we can only survive for a few days without water. We know that drinking six to eight 8-ounce glasses of water each day will keep our bodies hydrated, healthy, and fit. But the cells of our bodies are not the only parts of us that are parched. Even drier is the state of our souls. Instead of pouring in 'living water' to cure our dehydration, often however, we reach for a lot of spiritual junk food and cleansing agents. But just as there is no substitute for pure, life-giving water for our body, so spiritually there is no substitute for the 'living water' offered by Jesus.

Living water satisfies completely, satisfies forever, and satisfies everyone.

Every one of us has a thirst; we have got to drink water. Otherwise we become dehydrated. Dehydration results in delirium, unconsciousness, and in extreme cases death.

The body does some things naturally, and being thirsty is one of those things that happens. But not only does the body crave water, the soul also yearns for the 'living water'. If the spiritual thirst is not satisfied, we can begin to get symptoms of spiritual dehydration.

Not knowing the God that gives real living water leads people to spiritual dehydration! As a person denies himself the living waters of God, hope is lost. Jesus can offer the cup of 'living water', but each and every one of us must decide for ourselves whether or not to drink it.

So, what is this 'living water' Jesus offers – what does He have to give us that will quench our thirst forever and give us Eternal Life? It is freedom from fear – from doubt. It is the assurance that we all matter, that we are all part of God and God's love – now and forever. It is the assurance that the life with its troubles and pains, disappointments and evil can be quenched with God's presence in our lives. It is the assurance there is no fear and no means to even panic while the rest of the world are cautious with the deadly virus. Having a right relationship with Jesus will lift us beyond fear towards trust, from being cautious due to a deadly virus to a life-giving, life-changing gift of God's eternal life.

Where is God in the midst of all these? According to Habakkuk, God is the God of the plague. It goes ahead of Him and follows after Him. He's right in the middle of it. If God is indeed the God of the plague, which Habakkuk says He is, we can respond in two ways. We can blame Him and hate Him for bringing the plague, or we can beg for His mercy and strength in the midst of the plague. We can try to hide in fear of it or seek Him all the more in the middle of it. When God promises, "I am with you," He doesn't only promise to be with you when you are in good health or when He is blessing you and your family. He promises to be with you ALWAYS, even through the valley of the shadow of death, to the very end of the age.

Remember God is greater than any other. Amen.