

Message #1022  
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"WHERE IS YOUR GOD?"  
{Psalm 42}

#### HOW THIRSTY ARE YOU THIS MORNING?

It has been so hot lately and health experts have been advising everyone to drink lots of liquids.

One of Carol and David Coleman's grandsons came running into my study Saturday afternoon following their daughter, Virginia's wedding. He said to me, "You're lucky to be where it's warm!"

..."Oh?" I replied

..."Yeh, it's really HOT outside!"

..."Really?"

..."Yeh, you're lucky!"

Spotting a bottle of Crystal Geyser water on my desk he asked me, "Do you have any more of that water or coke in here? I'm thirsty!"

Seeing that I didn't he went on his way...back outside into the heat!

Carrying bottled water has become the fad in recent years. Everywhere you go you see people taking a sip...or a gulp!

...in the car {I guess it's water}

...walking down the street

...I've seen choir members taking it into the loft

...people even bring it to worship

For years, I've had my own cup with ice water supplied by the ushers every Sunday...but what's good for the goose is good for the gander - now anyone/everyone carries their own.

#### THE PSALMIST'S THIRST FOR GOD

The writer of this marvelous 42nd Psalm writes of a spiritual thirst using the deer as an example for us...

"As the deer pants for streams of water; so my soul pants for You, O God! My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Where can I go and meet with God?" {42:1}

Jesus understood our need...

...He knew well our deep longing to be in relationship with the Almighty

...and He was aware that until that thirst was quenched the longing would persist

He said: "If anyone is thirsty, let them come to Me and drink!"

...when one receives Him as Savior and Lord we are satisfied

...He fills every longing

God spoke through the Prophet, Jeremiah: "You shall seek Me and shall find me when you search for Me with all your heart!" And when one finds God their thirst is quenched.

We read in Revelation 21...

"To the one who is thirsty, I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life!" {21:6b}

...did you come to worship thirsty for God this morning?

...did you come needing God to meet a specific need in your life?

Envision that deer emerging from the forest...exhausted...flanks heaving...stalking warily to the water's edge, bending its neck to drink.

Then, close your eyes...what thirst have you this morning?

If you came "hungering and thirsting for righteousness" Jesus promised that you will be filled!

#### SAMARITAN WOMAN

One of my favorite stories of Jesus' encounters with people is found in John 4...

...Jesus met a woman of questionable character at Jacob's Well in Sychar, Samaria

...they have an interesting conversation...

Jesus asks: "May I have a drink?"

She replies: "How can you ask me for a drink? You are a Jew! I am a Samaritan. That's not kosher! Besides that, I am a woman and you are a man--it's unethical to speak publicly!"

He answered: "If you knew all that God has for you and who I am, you would've asked me for a drink and I would give you living water!"

"Ha, ha, ha! Ridiculous!" She replied. "You don't even have a bucket to draw the water or a cup from which to drink."

Then Jesus said: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again...but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst because the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life!"

Now he had her attention: "Sir, give me this water so I that I won't get thirsty any have to keep coming here to draw water!"

He then converses with her about personal matters in her life...

...he discloses that she's an immoral woman--but doesn't turn her away

...been married five times

...presently living with a man who wasn't her husband--very taboo in that society

Eventually the conversation turned to worship...where to find and worship God...which takes us back to our Psalm...

"WHERE CAN I GO AND MEET WITH GOD?"

She wanted to know where was the best place to worship.

Jesus told the woman: "God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship in Spirit and in truth!" {John 4:24}

...it's not a building

...a great edifice

...it's the spirit of worship that matters

Then He revealed to her His identity--the Savior...the Messiah.

...she left her water pot

...she did the unthinkable

...she ran to town told everyone who would listen:

"MY THIRST HAS BEEN QUENCHED!"

...come meet the Man who changed my life

...the man who knows all about me

...the man who accepts me as I am!

...and because of her testimony many believed

...and a great number had their thirst quenched as well

Where can you meet God?

...in a rose garden cathedral

...in this lovely outdoor sanctuary surrounded by God's beauty

#### CONCLUSION

God is here this morning...outside  
God will meet every need you brought with you today  
God is not confined to sanctuaries made by man  
God is present with us today  
Drink from His well that never runs dry  
Taste and see--the Lord is good!

David wrote in the most beloved of all Psalms...

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, HE LEADS ME BESIDE THE QUIET WATERS...He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake" {Psalm 23: 1-3a}

...come to the water  
...drink from His well  
...find satisfaction  
...fulfillment