

Spiritual nourishment – water

ODCC – 31/01/10 (.doc)

Text: John 4:4-15

Introduction

1. This is the 3rd and last message on the subject of *spiritual nourishment*. If you missed any the notes can be downloaded from our website.
 - a. In the *first* message we looked at man’s makeup and saw that the Bible teaches we have a body, a soul and a spirit. The spirit of a person is dead in everyone of us unless it is made alive by God.
 - i. The reason non-Christians live the way that they do is because their spirit is dead (that is, they have no concept of spiritual or Godly things) and so they elevate the life of the flesh.
 - ii. Once made alive, the spirit is the most important part of a person. Instead of allowing the flesh to remain elevated, we elevate the spirit so that it controls our being as we build our relationship with God.
 - iii. And we saw that if we have ever made a commitment to the Lord – that God takes our commitment very seriously. He’ll wean you off the world, He’ll train and discipline you, He’ll bring you to maturity so that you can take your place in the KoG as a mature son and daughter.
 - b. The reason for this is that the price God paid for your soul was immense – far far more than can be described in human language. He made a commitment to you.
 - c. And in the *second* message we saw that the only way to receive spiritual life is through Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “*Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.*”
 - i. Jesus was speaking figuratively, referring to His body would be badly beaten and His blood would be shed and His death on the cross.
 - ii. Believing in Him as your Saviour is to partake of His body and blood which imparts spiritual life.
 - iii. And continuing to partake of it through the Word and through prayer ensures that we develop our relationship with God and maintain spiritual communion with Him – ALL BECAUSE OF JESUS!

Living water

1. Last week was more about food. The Jews wanted Jesus to supply them with manna (or bread) just as Moses had done and Jesus told them that He *was* the Bread.
 - a. In our text today, Jesus tell the woman at the well that He could give her Living Water and that if anyone drank that living water they would never thirst again.
 - b. The woman is interested and asks for the water so that she would not have to keep making the trip to the well to draw water.
 - c. Again, Jesus was not talking about something that was literal but using water figuratively. And as I pointed out last week, something that is figurative refers to something that is real.
 - d. An example is Jesus telling Nicodemus, “*You must be born again.*” Birth here is figurative so that Nicodemus can understand but it refers to a person receiving spiritual life which is real. Spiritual birth is as real as physical birth.
2. What is the Living Water? Just as the Bread and Jesus’ flesh speaks of eternal life, so the Living Water also speaks of eternal life – it’s the same thing.
 - a. Jesus said to the woman, “*Everyone who drinks this water...it will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*”
 - b. But this is how John records it. He tells us that Jesus was thirsty. To “thirst” is to have a strong desire or want (even need) of something. It’s a physical desire to meet a physical need. It’s a natural desire.
 - c. And Jesus, effectively tells the woman that she has a thirst which has nothing to do with the body and which nothing in the whole world can satisfy.
 - d. This woman has a strong desire and a want, a need for something which only God can satisfy.
3. Later on in John’s gospel, Jesus cries out to everyone, “*If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink.*”
 - a. Let me remind you of what I said last week. Until we find Jesus as our saviour and unless we are constantly and daily developing our relationship with God we will never, never, ever find satisfaction in life because we will NEVER discover the God-given and God-centred meaning of life.
 - b. Non believers and non dedicated Christians will have a thirst, they will slake their thirst but not with the water Jesus is talking about, and they will get thirsty again.
 - c. **What you talking about Willis!?** Did you say “Christians”? Yes, I did. Jesus said, “*Seek first the KoG,*” and there are Christians who put that very very low on their list. (I was going to say “on their list of priorities” but it’s not a priority with them.
 - d. You see, as long as we give preference to the flesh, the spirit will always be subdued.

Satisfaction – fullness of joy

1. I don't have to tell you that the Western world is hedonistic. In case you can't remember the exact meaning of "hedonism" it means, "the pursuit of pleasure and self-indulgence".
 - a. In fact, an ETHICAL THEORY states that hedonism is the highest good and proper aim of human life.
 - b. One of the difficulties about preaching the gospel today is that people view the Christian life very negatively.
 - c. To many, to become a Christian means having to drastically change their lifestyle and to surrender the pleasures which they so enjoy as part of their current life.
 - d. Christianity says "no" to drunkenness, to fornicating, to loose talk and coarse joking and much more.
2. The Bible does not forbid Christians from having a good time. However, there are some things which the Bible lists as sinful or excessive (if not outright sinful).
 - a. If it's sinful beware because sin has consequences.
 - b. Sin is not something that can be seen. We may witness a sinful act but what we can't see is how it affects the life – it certainly affects the life of the spirit
 - c. Sin affect you and me negatively and it affects my relationship with God.
3. So we should stay away from the things we know are sin. BUT if my I make a list of dos and don'ts and think that I will find my thirst satisfied by simply adhering to my list, I will be most miserable!
 - a. Real Christianity is the CHRIST in Christianity. Real Christianity is daily and constant intimate friendship with God.
 - b. As we drink from Christ we find that He alone is able to slake the thirst and be a spring that wells up and continually satisfies.
4. CS Lewis was an atheist when he suddenly found Christ as his Saviour. He wrote a book entitled, "Surprised by joy."
 - a. A song we used to sing years ago said, "Jesus is the joy of living."
 - b. CS Lewis said this, "Joy, must be sharply distinguished both from Happiness and Pleasure. Joy has indeed one characteristic, and one only, in common with them; the fact that anyone who has experienced it will want it again...I doubt whether anyone who has tasted it would ever, if both were in his power, exchange it for all the pleasures in the world. But Joy is never in our power and pleasure often is."
 - c. CS Lewis described what Jesus offered. I can pop a pill for pleasure, or swallow the contents of some bottle, or organise a do, or go to a rock concert, or, or, or...but there can be a serious lack of joy and afterwards I must go back to the well and draw more water again, and again, and again.

Conclusion

If you have never experienced the presence and reality of Christ as a believer, then I challenge you to give yourself about six weeks where you get away quietly for about 15-20 minutes each day with your Bible, read a few verses and meditate on what you've read and commit you way to God.

I am convinced that you will begin to know the presence and leading of God. And then, when you experience that, then build on that and commit your way to the Lord.