

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 16.02.25

PREACHER: PS NATHAN BEAN

SEEK THE LORD

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING, THINKING & DOING

Conviction of a Disciple: As we journey in our growth into Christlikeness, we become more hungry for God's presence, recognizing our deep need for Him and trusting in His unshakable faithfulness.

OVERVIEW

Before we can truly seek God, we have to desire Him - to become aware of our soul's thirst for The Living Water. Isaiah 55 reminds us that while we can spend our whole lives chasing things that do not satisfy, God's invitation and covenant promise to us remains - when we come to Him, we will receive what our souls have been searching for all along.

ACTION

Step 1: Reflect: What are some of the "wells" you have turned to in search of satisfaction? Have they ever truly quenched your thirst?

Step 2: Commit: How does knowing God's faithfulness is unchanging help you trust Him more fully?

Step 3: Act: What is one tangible way you can respond to God's invitation to "come" and seek Him more deeply this week?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 55:1-13

Before we seek, we first need to desire; to become aware of our soul's deepest thirst.

We spend so much of life filling ourselves with things that never truly satisfy—entertainment, relationships, achievement, security. We chase after what we think will make us whole, yet the more we drink from these wells, the thirstier we get. In today's passage, Isaiah speaks into this cycle and offers a different way to see:

"Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy?" (v.2).

This invitation from our Creator is simple, but it's profound: Come to me. It's the broadest, most inclusive invitation—all who are thirsty. None are left out. However, there's a catch: We have to realise that we're thirsty. Otherwise, we will never seek Him. As long as we continue to numb, distract, and attempt to fill ourselves with other things, we will never see how deep our need really is.

This is precisely Jesus' main message to the woman at the well in John 4! He knew that she had spent her life searching - seeking meaning, security, and love within each relationship that she found herself. But when she encountered Jesus, her thirst changed. Actually, it's probably more accurate to say that she finally realised what she was truly searching for. Jesus says to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst" (John 4:13-14). In that moment, her surface-level seeking came to an end because she finally found the One she had looked for all along.

Desire is a funny and fleeting thing for us though. One minute we're all in and the next it feels like we've totally lost the plot again. You're not alone in feeling this. But despite all of our ins and outs, ups and downs, here is why we can trust this invitation:

Because it's built on a covenant that isn't dependent on us.

When God made His covenant with Abraham, He placed Abraham into a deep sleep and walked through the covenant ritual alone (Genesis 15). In doing this, God made it clear that this was His promise to keep. He knows our frailty and He stands by His promises anyway. The faithfulness of this covenant has never depended on human effort—it has always been and will always be upheld by God and God alone. His promises do not fail, and His invitation remains open. "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace... my word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire" (Isaiah 55:11-12).

This is why we can stop striving, stop running, stop trying to quench our thirst with things that will never satisfy us. God's invitation is not based on our performance, but on His unshakable faithfulness.

The invitation is open. The table is set. God is not hiding. "Seek the Lord while He may be found" (v.6). But first, we must recognise our need. Before we seek, we thirst.

DISCUSSION

1. Why is it so easy to fill our lives with things that are never truly satisfied? What are some common distractions that keep us from recognising our thirst for God?
2. How does understanding the cost of what Jesus has done change the way we respond to God's invitation?
3. How can we remind one another of God's covenant faithfulness when we struggle to trust Him?

PRAYER

Lord,

We can all confess that we spend too much time chasing things that can never truly satisfy our soul's desire. Would you open our eyes to see our deep need for You.

Thank You that Your faithfulness does not depend on us, but on Your unchanging promise. Give us a hunger and thirst for what is real, what is lasting, and what is found only in You. Teach us to seek You, not out of obligation, but because we have seen Your goodness and long to know You more.

Amen.