

LOVING LIFE, PART 30 • Drinking Life

Pastor Matt Heard, Read: John 7:37-52

May 3 & 4, 2008

Immersing ourselves in the Word of God is critical to right judgment and discernment. As we seek to honor God with our lives, it is imperative for us to look through the following four lenses of discernment:!

Three Components of a Pipe

- 1. Submitted (vs. 37)**
Pipes live submitted lives
- 2. Satisfied (vs. 38-39)**
Pipes live satisfied lives
- 3. Sent (vs. 38,40-52)**
Pipes live sent out lives

Pipe and Bucket Theology (Pipes vs. Buckets)

Buckets: Cannot be seen through. Holds water. If held long enough, water stagnates.

Pipes: Serve as conduits from one place to another – therefore, it keeps water clean and fresh. As a result a pipe flows freely from its source and a bucket hoards what it receives.

Each person on the journey of life thirsts for something. At times we seek true satisfaction from the barrenness of this world.

Jesus Christ calls out in this dry and thirsty land, stating that He is a spring of living water. He is the One who will satisfy any thirst. He is the Source that will never go dry.

Questions

1. Have you ever experienced a church (or an individual Christian) that reflects a bucket? How about a pipe? Explain the difference you experienced in your interaction.
2. A pipe has a source, and serves as a conduit between that source and the end. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be pipes—submitted to Jesus Christ our True Source. What does being submitted to Jesus Christ look like in your daily life? Give examples.
3. Matt referred to the Hebrew word, Enghetti. The word means oasis—a paradise in the midst of a dessert. A place of fresh water, one that will never run dry.
Matt gave an example of someone hiking in the dessert who is extremely thirsty and desperate to find water. The person finds two options:
 1. A vast ocean of blue water.
 2. A small oasis spring.

The person desires the ocean over the spring because of its appeal and immensity, but he doesn't realize his choice will kill him rather than satisfy him. We often approach life in much the same way – choosing something that will kill us instead of something that gives us life. Describe a time on your faith journey when you chose the ocean over the spring?

"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water." Psalm 63:1

Loving
Life
A Journey
through
the Gospel of John

4. In this Psalm, David expresses how he thirsts and longs to be satisfied. Where do you go to satisfy your thirst? Where do you go to deaden the pain that life often inflicts? Where do you go to find purpose in life and/or seek satisfaction? Have you been successful in finding what you need? Explain

"My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you." Psalm 63:5

5. Since becoming a follower of Jesus Christ we have surrendered our life to Him, and ultimately traded our emptiness for God's completeness. We experience the true satisfaction of what it means to be in Christ. How have you experienced fullness and fulfillment in Christ on your journey? Explain.

6. Unfortunately, we often need to be reminded to go back to Jesus Christ as our Source. Do you continually go back to the source to be satisfied? How? Give details.

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." John 7:37-38

7. Christ has called us to be His ambassadors to a lost and dying world. We are called to be a reflection of Him and to share His living water with all we come in contact with – to be a pipe.

Who was the person in your life who shared Jesus and His living water with you?

Is there someone in your life who you are serving as a conduit of God's love of grace? How are you sharing the living water of Jesus?

If not, pray and ask God to reveal someone to you.