

Message 3/3: "You'll Never Thirst Again"

Psalm 63:1-8

A Three-Message Mini Series: Religion Bad. Relationship Good.

Pastor Paul Bartelme

New Vintage Church, West Allis

Some of you have been to church your entire life. And if you're honest, you were _____.

- In other words, you were _____. (Jn 7:37-39; 4:13-14)

It's not that God is unwilling to quench your thirst. It's that what you experienced was often mixed with religion, not the fullness of relationship He offers.

Painfully common aspects of religion:

1. The nagging feeling that God is disappointed with you
2. Pretend that you have it all together
3. You must try harder and do better... or you're going to get it
4. Shame on you for messing up!
5. Stand up. Sit down. Kneel. Say stuff you don't understand

At NVC, we are done with all of that! We are rejecting religion and embracing _____!

This leads me to the following question... *What does having relationship actually mean?*

- Because if we don't figure out what relationship means, we could be like one of the following people:
 - The "I Believe... But That's About It" Person
 - The "Church Attender, Still Empty" Person
 - The "Trying to Pray... Feels Awkward" Person
 - The "Good Person = Close to God" Person
 - The "I Messed Up... So I Pulled Back" Person
 - The "Comparison Trap" Person
 - The "I'm Keeping My Distance" Person
 - The "I Don't Even Know Where to Start" Person

What does all of this lead to? In a word: _____. *And yet Jesus said that you would never thirst again.*

Let's learn all about being fully satisfied in Christ by figuring out what relationship means in Psalm 63:1-8

1. **V 1...** Being thirsty is a good thing. In other words, _____ that you're not fully satisfied is a good thing.
 - *Why is this a good thing?* (Mt 5:6; Isa 55:1) Because then God can bring to your attention *how* you have been ill-affected by religion.
 - And like David in our main passage, you thirst for something more.

2. **V 2...** David knew to pursue _____ and nothing else for full satisfaction. (Jas 4:8)

○ *How is that?* Because of his experience at church! (Jer 29:13)

▪ Church is a vital element in achieving full satisfaction. *A non-religious church, that is.*

3. **VV 3-4...** David's pursuit of God resulted in something truly _____.

○ *What's that?* The supernatural revelation that God's love is better than life!!! (Phil 3:8; Psa 16:11)

▪ David's response to this revelation is found in VV 3b-4.

Religion leaves you thirsty... but relationship satisfies. Because in relationship, you don't just get things from God. You get God Himself... in all His fullness!

Calls-to-action:

1. Which of the five common aspects of religion at the top of this note sheet did you relate to the most? Write down specifically what you will do to be set free from that aspect of religion. If you're having a hard time figuring out how to be set free, schedule in a one-time counseling appointment by texting the church office.
 - a. "I relate to the following aspect of religion" _____
 - b. "I will do the following to be set free" _____
2. How specifically will you deepen your commitment to the New Vintage Church family? By doing so, you are deepening your relationship to God because the church family are members, or parts, of His very Body! If you're having a hard time doing so, figure out why. Is it due to trust issues? No room in your schedule? What?
 - a. "I will commit to..." serve in a ministry / sign up for Summer Sessions / sign up for Discovery Class / sign up for Second Step class / introduce myself to someone at church / get baptized / sign up for Growth Groups / sign up for an outreach event / _____
3. Regarding your thought life: Many of your thoughts were not generated by you. Rather, they came from the indwelling Holy Spirit. For example, when you think of someone out of the blue, that's the Holy Spirit prompting you to pray to your heavenly Father for that person. When a random worship song that you haven't heard pops up in your head, that's the Holy Spirit prompting you to sing that song to the Lord. Believe with childlike faith this to be so.
 - a. So, be hyper aware of your thought life on this day and when the opportunity arises, engage with your heavenly Father regarding particular thoughts.
4. If you would like to nurture and grow your relationship with your spouse or best friend, you would find the time to spend with them. In the same way, you need to find the time to be with your heavenly Father. No one has enough time to read their Bibles! To pray! To worship privately! You have to find the time.
 - a. So, you need to sacrifice the time that you spend doing other things. That simple.