

Thirst.

The day was hot, football was the game and we played so very hard. Until the game was over and ^I we ran to the well and drank and drank that cold that had never tasted so good before, ~~When I was finished, my stomach ached.~~

Thirst.

A boy goes out on a ~~Mold~~ March evening, bouncing a basketball on the asphalt, throwing that ball through the circle of steel, again and again. He's heard the crowds roar, seen the headlines, now a thirst to be there in the center takes him away from the warm living room and the TV to practice in the fading light.

Thirst.

A big house. With curtains and carpets and bedspreads and couches, each just right. Green lawn, trimmed shrubs, bright flowers, Every thing perfect, a dream, and ~~xxxx~~ she in the middle of it all. So she watches and waits for the man who can provide it.

Thirst.

To just feel good. No tension, no weight of the world on his shoulders, no worries ~~alwaysx nibbling, xgnawing~~ like some rats nibbling, gnawing on the edges of his life. So he takes a drink and with the drink he walks from his gray dungeon into a room with brightness and light.

Thirst.

Fifty hours ~~a~~ week was not too much, nor even sixty-five. The road to the top of the corporation could not be traveled by one only willing to put in a normal week. If her marriage suffered she would make up for that later after she had achieved, and made a name for herself.

Thirst.

Give me a drink. She had a jar and the Jew wanted water. But she knew they were from different classes of people, different worlds, How is it that you a Jew, ask ~~for~~ a drink of me, a woman of Samaria? Jesus answered her,

If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.

Sir, she said, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water?

~~Yes she was thirsty~~

Jesus said to her, Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Jesus was telling her of something more than water, of that which quenches our deeper thirsts. Our thirst to matter, our thirst to be connected, to have a purpose for living, to be noticed and recognized and loved. Jesus was speaking to that thirst within us that sometimes ~~and~~ drives and drives us yet which we know not how to quench. the thirst that made the boy at a picnic's picnic do what that boy with the abacus

This woman knew of that thirst. ^{she had had} Five husbands, ~~now living with another man she had not married.~~ For what did she search? ~~Text~~ For someone who needed her? For someone she could make into all that she dreamed that he could be? Who were these five? Had they beaten her, come home drunk? Not come home at all? Were her thirst not so deep, she might have given up, decided men were all the same, but even as Jesus spoke to her she was tryingx living as the wife of yet another man.

Alone. Though our gospel does not use the word, somehow we sense that this woman was alone. Lonely. Did anyone really dare? Would anyone be there as she grew older? Did it matter to anyone that she was alone?

If you drink the water from the well, you will get thirsty again. But if you drink the water I give you will never thirst.

Jesus Christ is living water. He is the answer to all our thirst, ~~is~~ No faith in him will not insure us a big house, a successful career, success in sports. Faith in him will not even insure we will always feel good. Yet he is truly the answer to all our thirst.

Our thirst ~~is~~ reveals a need. The dryness of my throat is a warning

that my body is in need of water, water needed to keep me alive.

We were created for more than living day after day until we die. We were created by God that we might share eternity with him. And so we thirst.

~~Myxssukxisxrestikessxmtikixixfimdxixixrestixixthex~~

All our thirst for glory, and belonging and importance come from our need for our creator, for the living water that is our God. Christ brings us that living water that alone satisfies. The water he gives is a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

Are you uneasy, anxious? Is your mind full of dreams, thirsts that drive you? Be still and look to him who alone can satisfy. Pray, hear his word, listen for his voice, for he is the water that will satisfy your thirst forever. Amen.