

**Day 17**  
**Drink Up!**

**Matthew 5:6 (PHILLIPS)** *“Happy are those who are hungry and thirsty for goodness, for they will be fully satisfied!”*

Jesus always communicates in ways we can understand. He paints pictures with words so that we can comprehend, and so that we can have a vision of what He desires for us. You cannot give a clearer example of desire and want than the two things that every creature on this planet understands. We know hunger and we know thirst. We all can relate to that. We all get hungry and we all get thirsty. The question is not “Do I get hungry or thirsty?” The question is, “What are you doing with your spiritual hunger and thirst?” One of the requirements of the blessed life is to hunger and thirst for God’s goodness.

The word “thirst” means: ***“To painfully feel the need for water. This is more than just needing a sip, it means to be parched and dehydrated to the point of pain and death.”*** Do you desire God’s righteousness like that? This thirst can only be satisfied by God Himself. We know that human beings can go forty days without food and three days without water, but any more than that places our physical health in extreme jeopardy. Our bodies are comprised of 70% water. Water is contained in the cells, arteries, veins, and in the spaces of the blood vessels and cells. Our bodies’ water supply is involved in nearly every bodily function: digestion, absorption, circulation, and excretion. When we eat, breathe, and use our muscles, our bodies’ water supply is engaged. What’s the point? Physical dehydration leads your body to fail. That is naturally speaking, but Jesus is using it so that we can understand this spiritual truth: “If our souls don’t receive the righteousness they need, we fail spiritually.”

So Jesus encourages us to seek after righteousness like a desperate starving person, and a completely dehydrated individual that wants nothing else but some food and some water. Jesus says we must desire goodness like that. The longing of our souls to be satisfied by the beauty that is found in the only One who is completely righteous and just. The Psalmist understood this longing: ***“As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him?” (Psalm 42:1-2 NLT)***

Deer pant for water for two reasons. First, because naturally every animal has to drink water. Secondly, they look for water to throw off their own scent when they are trying to escape an enemy. Goodness and righteousness cut off the foothold that the enemy is trying to gain in our lives. We call that moral authority. It is not bragging about how good we are; it is a longing to be filled with the righteousness of Jesus that leads us to walk in the authority of Christ. **You cannot rebuke a devil that you codify. You cannot overcome an enemy that you are allowing to sleep in your lap!**

Panting like a deer for streams of water is looking for God’s goodness to cover you. Just like Paul wrote and said: ***“Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, 22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. 25 So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. 26 And ‘don’t sin by letting anger control you.’ Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:21-27 NLT)***

Your new nature is truly righteous and holy, just like your Heavenly Father. When you thirst to live your life that way, it empowers you to say, “No” to the devil and, “Yes” to the Lord. Footholds can become strongholds when we do not thirst after God’s righteousness. Whatever you thirst and hunger after is what is going to control your life. ***“Change the hunger, and you change the man; control the hunger and you control the man.” - Wiersbe***

There is that old commercial that says: “Stay thirsty my friends...” The only problem with it is, it’s having you thirst over something that will never satisfy. I am not much for the commercial, but I fully agree with the sentiment. As Christ followers, as seekers of God’s will, and worshippers of God’s Person, thirsty is a good place to be. Hunger and thirst for God’s righteousness leads to a fully satisfied life. The Psalmist expresses it so beautifully: ***“O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.” (Psalm 63:1 NLT)***

That same exact desire is reiterated by Peter when he writes: ***“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” (1 Peter 2:2-3 NIV)***

It’s time to come to your Father’s table; come hungry, come thirsty. Bring all your craving for His pure nourishment; bring your parched and weary soul. Take big gulps of His goodness, eat your fill of His righteousness. Your Father knows what you need. It’s time to drink from the fountain that will never run dry!

#### **Reflection and Prayer:**

- **How thirsty are you really? What does that thirst practically look like in your life?**
- **What steps can you take to help you create a bigger appetite for God’s goodness in your life?**
- **The prophet Jeremiah gives us some wise advice about how we can create a greater hunger and thirst for God’s Word. What is it? “Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” (Jeremiah 15:16a NKJV)**
- **Have you made God’s Word the joy and rejoicing of your heart? If not, when will you start?**
- **Write this verse out, or even put it in your phone and read it daily. Then ask the Lord to make it a reality in your life: “God—you’re my God! I can’t get enough of you! I’ve worked up such hunger and thirst for God, traveling across dry and weary deserts.” (Psalm 63:1 MSG)**