

A hand is shown reaching into a body of water, with ripples spreading out from the point of contact. The background is a soft, golden sunset over a large body of water, with a distant shoreline visible under a hazy sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

43. EMPTY? THIRSTY? DRY? COME BE SATISFIED!

Come to the Redeemer who is the only inexhaustible fountain. You may drink, and drink again, and ever find a fresh supply.

EMPTY? THIRSTY? DRY? COME BE SATISFIED!

Isaiah 12:3: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."

We live in a world that has become filled with misery and sadness and brokenness. Daily people are withering away from the inside – emotionally and cognitively. The outside world is also hurting and destroying people. It is like a plant that is slowly dying because of the elements around it. The sun, the wind, the hail and the bugs are eating away at the plant and slowly destroying it. Many of us don't even realise that, as time has passed, we have slowly withered away. Life has become very meaningless, with a lack of hope.

The imagery in the Bible speaks of God's people as trees. Trees that are either withering away or trees that are prospering and growing and becoming more beautiful. The book of Revelation is one of the books that speak about God's people being like trees and it depicts Jesus as the Saviour, walking amongst myrtle trees. The passage in Revelation is a prophetic way of looking at the world, depicting Jesus walking amongst His people. I was curious as to why specifically myrtle trees. If you look at the imagery of myrtle trees in the Bible, it says that it is a stubborn tree, a tree that grows evergreen leaves, despite the darkness and murky circumstances around it. As a matter of fact, when you look at myrtle trees, they are often found in the valleys at the bottom of mountains. They are often found in dark, wet and murky areas where it seems that no tree should be growing and flourishing. Myrtle trees, however, keep growing amidst these circumstances.

**MYRTLE TREES KEEP GROWING
DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY ARE
OFTEN FOUND IN DARK VALLEYS
THAT ARE MURKEY AND DARK.**

When I was young and I read these verses, I did a bit of digging. I said to myself that I would love to be like the myrtle trees Jesus walked around. I wanted to be such a tree that is evergreen with leaves that don't wither even though it might find itself in the valley at the bottom of the mountain and in the shadows, maybe even in the shadow of the valley of death. I wanted to keep growing. I wanted to be the myrtle tree the book of Revelation prophetically speaks about. I didn't want to go through seasons of drought and rain and wind and scorching heat, allowing that to destroy me.

I didn't want to be like the other trees that were affected by the circumstances around them. I didn't want to *die* in the tragedies of this world. What I mean with *die* is not to die *physically*, but emotionally and cognitively; to experience the drought and the withering away that many people do experience. That was my wish as a child and I prayed to the Lord a lot, telling Him what I do feel – the circumstances affecting me and how I didn't want it to affect me. I wanted to grow. I wanted to flourish. I wanted to bloom in season as well as out of season, in the good times and the bad times of life. I wanted to be able to be satisfied. I wanted to be happy. I wanted to be able to have that joy in my heart the Bible speaks of – the joy that only comes because Christ lives in your heart.

For a tree to remain alive and green, it needs water. The Bible talks about Jesus being the Water of Life, the thing that sustains us in the drought, in the desert, in the times of difficulty. We live in an ever-changing, sinful world, a world where seasons and circumstances are changing all around us. These things are getting worse.

**REVELATION SAYS JESUS WALKS
AMONG THE MYRTHLE TREES. A
SYMBOL OF HIM BEING WITH US IN
OUR DARK VALLEYS HELPING US TO
GROW DESPITE THEM.**

The Bible predicts that things are going to keep on getting worse. I've seen people emotionally wasting away and physically being drained by the things of the world. This world is slowly poisoning us. Our souls are withering away to the point of death. You might be asking where the cure for the disease of this world is. Where is the cure for the poison of sin and suffering? Where is the antidote? How can God make us immune to the circumstances around us so that it doesn't affect us, so that it doesn't destroy our spiritual leaves and the trees that we are, so that we can keep growing and flourishing. Remember, an antidote works in this way – it doesn't remove the poison from our systems, it makes us immune to the poison around us.

The Bible tells us that the world and its circumstances, the poison, is not going to go away. There is a verse in the book of Revelation, saying that a time will come when those who have been sinful and filthy, will be filthier. In other words, it is not going to get better. There are things that are going to increase in their intensity. The elements around us are not going to ease up. Revelation tells us that there will come a time when the Lord is going to tell the four angels on the four corners (symbolic corners) of the earth to let go of the winds of strife and to loosen the wind so that it will blow upon the trees. I believe we are living in these times right now. The world is being protected by the mercies of God, but I believe these winds are slowly being let loose and the result is the stuff that we see happening in the world right now. Things like wars and rumours of wars and COVID-19. Things are just getting worse in our personal relationships and families are turning against families. Things are really getting bad around us. The Bible is saying that the elements, the winds of strife, the circumstances around us, are not going to ease up.

**THE WORLD IS SLOWLY POISONING
US AND WE NEED AN ANTIDOTE
THAT CAN PROTECT US FROM ITS
DESTRUCTIVE POWERS.**

As the world approaches its end, it is going to get worse, but we still need to be satisfied. We shouldn't be carried away by the circumstances that are around us. We need to be able to say: "I am satisfied. I am sturdy. I am planted. I am rooted and I am not moved by these things." So, why are we unhappy and dissatisfied? Why do these circumstances around us leave us despondent and without hope and feeling really empty?

A physician by the name of Neil Nedley, who often does seminars on depression and anxiety, wrote in one of his books that there are more things than ever before in the world today, that should make us happy. Things that should give us satisfaction. Things like technology, games, movies, music of every kind and flavour that you can think of and all the entertainment that abounds us. There are restaurants, clubs, resorts, holiday destinations and hotel accommodation. Every stimulant under the sun that you can think of is available to man. There are so many choices of food delicacies, sweets and savouries and cool drinks and other things. So many intoxicating places, exotic places, we can go to. We can travel there by sea and by air or by land. We can go on cruises. We can experience the world and all its fullness. Everything which can be owned materially, exists in every colour, shape and size – cars, cell phones, home décor and clothes. For every occasion and every fancy there is something out there to make us happy. We should be happier than ever before because there is so much to make us happy, but we are miserable. We are depressed. We feel anxious. We feel emptier than ever before.

Maybe some of you have said: "I was happier when I was a child. I was more joyous when I was a child." If you think about it, the world back then was much simpler.

**DON'T ALLOW CIRCUMSTANCES
TO UPROOT YOU. MAKE SURE YOU
ARE STURDY, PLANTED AND
DEEPLY ROOTED.**

The world back then didn't have all of these things that are supposed to make us happy. Instead, all these things leave us empty in the end. With the rise of technological advancement, the world's depression rates, anxiety rates and suicide rates have increased alongside of it. One wonders whether there is not a correlation between the two. Are the things that are supposed to bring us happiness not actually causing the depression and anxiety inside us? We think it makes us happy, but in the end it leaves us empty. We call these things the quick pleasures of life – they satisfy for a moment, but afterwards we feel emptier than ever before.

There are more soil and water for the trees of God in this world today than ever before, but this soil and this water are the wrong types. It is the wrong kind of soil and water that we are feeding our trees with. The water and the soil that we are feeding ourselves with, is poison – slowly killing us. We start to die from the inside. We waste away, unhappy and miserable people.

David also experienced that kind of thirst, a thirst and an emptiness that he was longing to satisfy. He experienced that his mouth was dry and his soul felt empty and he didn't know where to go to, worldly spoken. He needed something to give him that satisfaction. David said in the Psalms that he experienced this thirst, but he went to water that was not poisoned, that would not leave the person feeling emptier and wanting more – he went to the true Well of Life. In Psalms 63:1 he says: *"You, God, are my God. I earnestly seek You; I thirst for You, my whole being longs for You, in a dry and parched land where there is no water, I thirst for You."* It is this experience we are going through in the world today.

**MAKE SURE YOU ARE FINDING
NUTRIENTS FOR YOUR SOUL FROM
THE CORRECT SOIL, AND THE
CORRECT SPRING OF WATER.**

We are in the parched land, a land that leaves us wanting more, a land that leaves us empty and dry and never satisfied. The Bible is calling us to seek out the true Water of Life that will leave us not wanting anymore.

Why do we thirst?

The first reason why we thirst is because **we don't ask for the Water of Life**. When a small child is thirsty and want something to drink, the child goes to the mother and asks the mum for some water because they can't get the water for themselves. It is very much the same for us. We need to ask for water, but we try and get water for ourselves in the wrong places. We don't ask for the real Water of Life. Let us look at the story of the Samaritan woman in the Bible.

A woman from Samaria went to a well for water. Jesus who had been busy the whole day, was tired and thirsty and was sitting by the well that was called 'Jacob's Well'. Seemingly unconscious of His presence, the Samaritan woman filled her pitcher with water. As she turned to go away, Jesus turned to her and asked her for a drink. No Oriental would withhold such a favour. In the East, water was called 'the gift of God'. To offer a drink to a thirsty traveller was held to be a duty so sacred that the Arabs in the desert would go out of their way in order to perform the duty of giving water to another person.

It was within her Oriental nature, the custom of the East, to offer water to thirsty travellers, but the hatred between the Jews and the Samaritans prevented this woman from offering such a kindness to Jesus. It was an honour and a privilege to do so, but this woman kind of ignored Jesus because of the prejudice between the Jews and the Samaritans.

**WE ARE LIVING IN PARCHED
LANDS, DRY AND EMPTY IN NEED
OF THE TRUE WATER OF LIFE.**

The Saviour was seeking to find a way into her heart, that's why He was at the well that day. He wanted to offer her the Water of Life. The way He went about doing this was with a tact that was born out of Divine love. He asked, not offered, a favour. If Jesus was to offer a kindness, she might have rejected it. If He straight out went to her after He met her and said to her that He had the Water of Life, she might have rejected it. But Jesus knew that trust awakened trust.

We are in the same position. We feel that we cannot ask God's blessing unless we first do something for Him. Jesus calls us to serve Him and to work for Him while we are sinners. Christ uses us where we are. He knows that after we have done something for Him, He can offer to do something for us in return. He comes and offers Himself. "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you: 'Give me something to drink', you would have asked Him and He would have given you the Living Water" (John 4:10). God doesn't just come and ask us to serve Him. He is there to meet us by our well of life. He comes to us and asks us to do something so that He can offer us the Water of Life. He wants to offer us what He can give us through His life. We just need to ask Him, but we don't. Matthew 7:7 gives us a promise: "Ask and it shall be given unto you." If you are thirsty, if you haven't been satisfied, ask God for the Water of Life so that you will never thirst again.

The second reason why we end up thirsting is because **we neglect to see the Source of life, the Source of water, right in front of us.** When the Samaritan woman spoke to Jesus at the well, she asked Him whether He was greater than their father Jacob who built that well. She was looking backwards to Father Jacob. She was looking back to the old ways of life, to how things used to be, the beautiful promises and the beautiful life of Israel of old.

**THE PROMISE OF GOD IS, WHEN WE
DRINK FROM HIM THE WELL OF LIFE
WE WILL NEVER THIRST AGAIN.**

A lot of times we do the same. We dwell upon the old days, of how things used to be and how life used to be good. We also look forward to the promises of heaven and how things will be better one day. But we forget that right in front of us, close by us, is the Living Fountain of Life. We don't have to look far, it is right in front of us, just like it was there for the woman at the well. We often say something like: "Someday, Jesus will come and He will make my thirst disappear. Someday in the future, He will heal my wounds. Someday, I will be satisfied and happy and content." But the Water is right in front of us. It is accessible to us today. We do not realise that we don't have to wait for the second coming of the Saviour to have that hope, to have that satisfaction of Life. Today, we can be satisfied in Jesus Christ, the Water of Life, who is sitting right in front of us. We have the Word of God. We have Jesus through prayer. All we need to do, is to drink from His well.

The third reason why we end up being very thirsty is because **we cannot imagine that we can drink and be satisfied right now.** Happiness is available to us right now. The Bible tells us in the book of Philippians that when we go to the Lord (the Water of Life) in prayer, He gives us a peace that surpasses all understanding. Not tomorrow, not when we get to heaven, but right now. We can have the satisfaction right now. Many of us do not see Jesus in front of us right now. We feel like He is some mystical force that is not available or accessible to us and we wait for Him to bless us someday. But right now, today, we can drink from the Well that never runs dry.

Another reason why we end up being thirsty is because **we drink from the wrong wells.** When we've started off, I talked about the things we go to, to satisfy us. Things that should make us happy, but end up not making us happy.

**WE DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR
HEAVEN TO BE SATISFIED &
HAPPY, THROUGH CHRIST WE CAN
HAVE THOSE THINGS NOW.**

We drink poisonous water that actually just leaves us wanting. We drink from wells that have holes in. In Jeremiah 2:13, Jesus is giving a warning through His prophet to His people. He is saying: *"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the Fountain of Living Water, and they have dug cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."* In other words, we neglect Him who is really going to satisfy us. We don't go to the Lord every day, drinking from the Well that will never run dry. (A cistern is basically a well.) The Lord is saying that we dig wells, we look for water and we make things and we do things which we think are going to satisfy us. But the Lord is saying that those wells have holes in them, they are broken and they cannot hold water. We keep on going back to those things in order to find satisfaction, but we will never find satisfaction in them.

John 4:1-42 covers the story of the woman at the well. (You can perhaps read the story later.) Jesus told the woman at the well that He would give her a type of water that will never let her thirst again. I've often wondered why Jesus asked that woman about her husband. After He told her about the water that she could drink and that she would never be thirsty again, just out of the blue, He told her to fetch her husband. The woman answered: "I don't have a husband."

And Jesus replied: "Yes, you already had five and the one that you are with right now, is not your husband." The reason He brought her to this realisation or why He mentioned the husband or husbands, is because He wanted her to realise that she was trying to quench her thirst through illicit relationships. She was doing things in the world that seemed to give her happiness – she was chasing happiness through relationships. She was chasing happiness in a way that would not satisfy her.

**TRYING TO SATISFY THE EMPTINESS
INSIDE WITH EARTHLY PLEASURES,
IS LIKE DRINKING WATER FROM A
BAG WITH HOLES IN IT.**

I think she paused when Jesus mentioned the husbands and then she said: "I see that You are a prophet and that You know things which I have not revealed to anyone." This is usually the way in which we try and find satisfaction. We try and find satisfaction in things that are actually embarrassing. Somehow, the world perpetuate this idea.

- If we can find that one person, then he or she will give me meaning in life.
- If I can just get the job that I dreamt of, then I will be happy.
- If I can just earn enough money, then I will be happy.
- If I can travel and see the world, then I will be satisfied.
- If I can have that beautiful body and lose that weight, then I will be happy.

We somehow have this idea that the wells of the world are going to give us satisfaction. Jesus Christ, through His prophets, is saying: "No, don't go to those things. You've tried those things and they have not given you satisfaction. Quit drinking from broken cisterns." We are drinking from wells that run dry and then we are left empty and thirsty. *'He who seeks to quench his thirst from the fountains of the world will drink only to thirst again. Everywhere men are unsatisfied. They long for something to supply the need of the soul. There is only One that can truly meet that want.'*

We need to learn to drink from the true Source of satisfaction daily. Jesus says: "I am the Water of Life. I am the Wellspring that jumps up inside of you to everlasting life. He who drinks of Me will never thirst again." He was saying to the Samaritan woman that the person who tasted the love of Christ will continually long for more; but he will seek nothing else. The riches, honours and pleasures of this world will no longer attract him.

**THE WELLS OF THIS WORLD WILL
NEVER QUENCH YOUR THIRST,
THEY WILL ACTUALLY DEHYDRATE
YOU MORE.**

The people will not drink of the water that they once used to drink from because they would have tried it and would have seen that it did not satisfy them. But when they have tasted the Lord, the Water of true life, they will know that He is the only One that satisfies.

Jesus was not telling the woman if she drank of Him only once, that she would never be thirsty again. He was saying: "When you drink from Me, you won't want those other things. When you drink from Me, you will know true satisfaction, you will know true happiness, you will know true contentment, despite the trials and tribulations that are all around you. You will be able to flourish." The Bible invites us to truly know the Water of Life. That is the only thing which will give satisfaction. Psalms 34:8 says: "*Taste and see that the Lord is good.*" Once you have tasted this, you will want nothing else.

Not only will you want nothing else, but this Water will sustain you through the trials and tribulations of life. Isaiah 43:19 says that the Lord will make a way in the desert, in that dryness, in that drought so that streams of water will flow in the wasteland.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 tells us what happens when we have watered ourselves, these trees that we are, with the Living Water. It reads: "*But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank (Christ is that riverbank), with roots that reach deep into the water (Jesus Christ). Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green (like those myrtle trees) and they never stop producing fruit.*" Isaiah 58:11 gives another promise: "*The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.*"

**TRUST AND BELIEVE THAT JESUS
IS ENOUGH TO QUIET THE
LONGING OF YOUR HEART.**

You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters will never fail." There is going to be heat in life. There is going to be wind. There is going to be hardships. But the trees (that is us), will keep growing and prospering and bearing fruit when we plant ourselves in the River of Life. When we drink from that Living Water daily, it can do so much for us. We will drink more and more of the Water of Life and find that satisfaction within our souls every day. Like in the East where water is called 'the gift of God' and where it will not be denied anyone, we too can enjoy that gift today.

In Isaiah 55:12, God gives an invitation through His prophet: *"Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters."* We know that Jesus is the Water of Life. He says: 'Every human resource and dependence will fail.' The things that we used to go to, those empty cisterns will fail. If we've tried all of those things to fill the void, we will know that we have been left empty by the world's wells and that the pool we have tried to drink from keeps running dry; so the invitation is there today: 'Come to the Redeemer who is the only inexhaustible fountain.'

- You may drink and you may drink again and again and find a fresh supply of courage, of energy and of hope every day.
- When Christ dwells in you, you yourself will then become a fountain of blessing to others, 'a well of water that springs up to everlasting life.'
- From this Source, Jesus, you can draw true strength and grace and love that will satisfy all your needs – the pains and the heartaches will disappear.

**THE LORD WILL SATISFY YOUR
NEEDS IN A SUN-SCORCHED LAND
AND WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR FRAME.
YOU WILL BE LIKE A WELL-WATERED
GARDEN, LIKE A SPRING WHOSE
WATERS WILL NEVER FAIL.**

After their talk, the woman at the well said to Jesus: "I know that the Messiah, who is called Christ, is coming and when He is come, He will tell us all things." Jesus answered and said to her: "I am the Messiah. The One that you are speaking to, is that Messiah. I am here right now, you don't have to wait for Him." You also don't have to wait until you get to heaven or for the Messiah to come, to experience that happiness, because the Messiah is right in front of you. You can drink from Him now and be satisfied. You can be uplifted and quenched and that longing in your soul can be satisfied today.

I believe that Jesus is giving the invitation to us today, saying: "I am the Water of Life. I am the Messiah. I am the thing that you were waiting for, that you've been wanting and longing for. As much as you think it is all those other things, it is not. It is Me who satisfies that longing in your heart, who fills that hole, that emptiness. Put me in there and I will satisfy you."

The Bible is full of invitations to drink from the Water of Life. The beautiful thing is that the invitation still stands today. In the last book of the Bible (the book of Revelation), in the last chapter of this book (chapter 22) and in the last 5 verses, Jesus speaks to His people. He speaks to you and to me and He gives the invitation again. Just before the Bible ends, Revelation 22:17 says: "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' Let the one who hears say, 'Come!' *And let the one who is thirsty come, and the one who desires the Water of Life, let him drink freely.*"

My prayer for you today is that you will drink freely of the Water of Life, Jesus Christ, every single day as He has made Himself available to you.

**COME! AND LET THE ONE WHO IS
THIRSTY COME, AND THE ONE
WHO DESIRES THE WATER OF LIFE,
LET HIM DRINK FREELY.**

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