Jesus, what do you mean?

***“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.”***

Or, What does it take to make you happy?

John 7:37

**The Words:**

 Jesus is known for his arresting word pictures, and here is one of the best. If you think through the idea of thirst, what it takes to satisfy it, and the experience of having the thirst disappear, you come face to face with the essence of Jesus and His power. But how does it work? Can I really be satisfied in this life? “Jesus, what do you mean?”

**The Challenge:**

 The heart has been called “a desire factory,” and so it is. Jesus’ promise of “rivers of living water” within and satisfaction from an eternal, ever-accessible fountain, seem impossible to those hurt, betrayed, or just disappointed by life. The claim that ANYONE can find satisfaction through Him places Jesus far above any “religious leader,” but how can He keep such a promise? Unless He is God!

**The Principle: Jesus satisfies. Period.**

 We can last three weeks without food, only three days without water. Our bodies (65 % water) need constant re-watering to provide oxygen, and nutrients, and to flush waste. Our thirst prompts us to drink, and live.

 So our thirst becomes a ready analogy for needs and desires of all kinds, and we speak of thirsting for adventure, knowledge, or love. We desire, long for, or crave such things, and many others, until we find them, and then we stop (for the moment), until the thirst *du jour* kicks in again.

 But Jesus says that His living water is so abundant as to be rivers (plural) in the heart, a reference, John explains, to God’s eternal Spirit. This water is so satisfying that those who drink it cease being thirsty, as those who feed on Him, the Bread of Life, cease being hungry (John 4:13, 14; 6:35). God Himself is the satisfaction, and the source of contentment. 1 Tim. 6:6-8

**The Application: Believe Jesus. Period.**

 Jesus solves the riddle this way: “Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, whoever believes in me shall never thirst” (John 6:35). Our ultimate satisfaction lies only in God, and our connection to Him comes only through embracing His Word.

 1. All lesser needs and desires are pointers to the Grand Desire.

 Our need for food and water, and our longings for love and companionship, highlight our incompleteness, for even the best of these things are “on loan” in this life. Only God is eternal, and infinitely good, and He offers Himself to all in forgiving life. Isaiah 55

 2. To “come to Jesus” is not to admire Him from afar, but to take Him in, to say “YES!” to Him, receive His life, and follow Him.

 Jesus calls disciples, not pew-sitters, into a relationship with Him more valuable than all other possibilities combined. Matthew 13:44-46

 3. Life-transforming desire for Jesus (faith) comes, not through wishing, willing, or working, but the grace-gift of a new heart.

 We cannot “will” our conversion, only accept it as a gift when we stop seeking ultimate satisfaction elsewhere. John 1:11-13; 6:41-51