



Thirsty Jesus [John 4:1-10, 13-15, 39-41; 19:28-30]

Later on in John 4:31-38, the disciples come back from the city with food for Jesus, but Jesus refuses it, explaining that he has “living” food which they don’t know about, and that the fields are ripe for harvest. Earlier Jesus offered the Samaritan woman “living” water in exchange for physical water. Clearly Jesus isn’t saying that having living water and living food takes away our our need for physical water and food. Jesus definitely ate meals, drank water, maybe even some wine.

So then, what do you think Jesus is saying about the difference between living and physical water/food? Can you sustain life with one and not the other? Why?

Pretend you were Jesus hanging on the cross. What would have been your last words to your loved ones who were watching? Would u have announced your thirst? Why or why not?

In your mind, what would be the pro’s and con’s of being an angel vs. a human being? Relationally, emotionally, spiritually, physically? What are the upsides and downsides of living as a human being?

Staying in touch with our humanity is tough. It’s much easier to say, “I’m struggling with the decision to buy a house in Phoenix or Florida,” than it is to say, “I’m struggling with whether I belong in this community. I struggle with whether people accept me based on who I am, or how much I own, etc. I struggle with looking like I’m ‘established’ so my family will respect me.” When we admit the latter, we feel exposed, naked, helpless, vulnerable.

What are your own reasons that connecting with and admitting your core human needs is difficult, embarrassing, or even scary?

Share a decision or issue that you are struggling with or stressed about, which you think might involve a core human need? Example: I’m looking to buy a new car, but I’m not sure if I should get a luxury model or an economy model. If I’m honest, I think I’m concerned about how people perceive me, and I’m hoping that by owning a luxury model, I’ll gain some respect and admiration from my friends.

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While Jesus was on the cross, with his last breaths, he shared with us, "I thirst." He didn't share this need because he thought we could do anything about it. He knew there wasn't any water around. He shared because He wanted to be in relationship with us, He wanted to be intimate with us, He wanted to share His life and what He was experiencing with us. It's almost like Jesus was saying, "I want to share something with you, simply because I want you to know Me and I want you to be close to what I'm going through right now. I'm thirsty. I know you can't do anything about it, but I need to share, or we wouldn't be in relationship. I want to be intimate with you. Now, I've done my part, but it takes two to make a relationship work. I've been good about sharing with you my needs and hurts. Please, will you share with me your needs and hurts." It's a simple invitation, but often it's easier said than done.

Have you ever found yourself withdrawing from your relationship with Christ by keeping needs and hurts to yourself? Why do you think you do this?