

COME THIRSTY
#1: Parched to Praise
September 16-18, 2006

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. ²Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, ³those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south. ⁴Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. ⁵They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. ⁶Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ⁷He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle. ⁸Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for humankind, ⁹for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. *Psalm 107:1-9 TNIV*

Introduction: As we begin together our churchwide study of Max Lucado's "Come Thirsty," it is important that we dispel a common myth from the outset. The cultural lie that we believe is that we learn to be grateful as a result of prosperity. In an affluent society, we come to believe that we praise God out of the overflow of our lives. Call it reflexive thanksgiving. In truth, gratitude is a proactive posture we assume out of our conviction that God is love.

- I. Why Give Thanks to the LORD
 - A. Simply because He is good! (v.1a)
 - B. Because His love is the only thing that truly endures forever. (v.1b)
 - C. Because we have been redeemed by His hand. (v.2)
 - D. Because He has gathered His people. (v.3)
- II. Why Do People Seek God?
 - A. Because they are restless. (v.4)
 - B. Because they are hungry and thirsty. (v.5a)

⁵Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

Haggai 1:5-6 TNIV

- C. Because they are mortal. (v.5b)
 - D. Because they are in trouble. (v.6a)
 - E. Because they are distressed. (v.6b)
 - F. THEN, they cried out to the LORD. . .
- III. A Profound Irony
 - A. Those who are always full hunger more.

[Jesus said,] ²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. ^{25a}Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry."
Luke 6:24-25a TNIV
 - B. Those who hunger are satisfied.

[Jesus said,] ^{20b} "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ^{21a} Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.
Luke 6:20b-21a TNIV
 - IV. Spiritual Water and Food That Satisfies
 - A. Guidance (v.7a)
 - B. Contentment (v.7b)

[Paul wrote,] ^{11b} I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength. *Philippians 4:11b-13 TNIV*
 - C. Unfailing Love (v.8a)
 - D. Divine Intervention (v.8b)
 - E. Satisfaction (v.9)

Conclusion: Both life experience and God's Word teach us that abundance rarely prompts us to seek God. Gratitude is learned in desperation and remembered in prosperity. True thanksgiving is a conviction lived out in faith, not a response to abundance.

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