

Thirsty Along the Trail



You Can Get Mighty Thirsty Along the Trail

Illustration: Bring an ice cold cola, pop the top, and take a drink. Set the cola up where the students can see it. This gets everyone thirsting for it. Make a big deal out of the cola. Ask how many of them are thirsty? Get them really craving something to satisfy their thirst.

Bring in a hot piece of pizza or some hot popcorn for yourself. Again, make a big deal out of the snack. Ask how many of them are hungry? Say, oh yes, I am too. Then go right ahead with your snack for a moment just like they were not in the room; except for the fact that you are having this great smelling food and drink and they have nothing.

Open in prayer and read the following verse:

Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger & thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Are you as thirsty for righteousness as you are for this cola? Are you as hungry for righteousness as you are for this snack?

We've all seen the Western movies where the cowboys are in the desert, thirsty, licking their dry, parched lips, ready to collapse. In real life the cowboys would plan their route for their cattle drive or a long trip because they couldn't carry enough water for a whole herd of cows or for a month long trip. They would go from watering hole to river, to creek so that they would have plenty of water. If they didn't, they would not make it with very many cows alive, and possibly they would also die along the way.

Whether in the old west days or in the Old Testament days in the Middle East, you would need to dig a well along the way. How did they know where to dig to find water? Francine's grandpa had an unusual way of figuring out where to dig.

Illustration: One method used in the "old days" was the water "Witchin" stick. It is preferable to have a willow forked switch or branch, but you can use any forked tree branch to illustrate. Francine's grandpa was the "expert" in the family.

When she was a small child, Grandpa was known for his "water witching". Whenever someone wanted to drill a water well in the community, Grandpa was called on. He made a wand out of a forked branch from a willow tree; holding it with the straight point forward and the branches of the Y formed handles. He walked around the area holding the "wand" until he said that it "pulled" downward from the tip. Everyone thought he was finding water; that he had a "gift" for that. But I think there may be another explanation for what was happening.

The "Witchin" rod involves superstition, but there are legitimate ways to know where to dig. You can learn what plants need plenty of water and when you see them growing, you know that water

is near the surface. Other words, there are indicators or signs available that pointed to water below the surface.

Our Christian life should be one that is eager to learn this trail tip so that we can have our spiritual thirst quenched. God's Word says:

Ps. 42:1-2 "As the hart panteth after water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"

If we thirst after Him like a thirsty deer seeks water, we will always be able to find refreshing water, even in the desert. (Point out that a deer does not sweat through their skin. They sweat with their tongue, like a dog. If chased for a long distance a deer could over heat and die if it does not get water to help cool down quickly.) Deserts, that is to say, hard times and difficult times are part of life and will come to everyone sometime. If you are saved, you know that you will reach heaven as your destination, but here on this trail of our life we will have a few deserts to cross.

If you are seeking God, that is to say, thirsting for Him, for His fellowship, for His leadership, He will get you through these times.

A thirsty person heads for the water. A thirsty Christian heads for the Living Water.

John 7:38 "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

A hungry person heads for the Bread of Life

John 6: 35 "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

This trail of life that we are on leads to eternity.

To the saved or born again, that is those that have received Jesus as Savior, it leads to eternal life in a place called Heaven. However to the unsaved, that is, to those that have rejected Jesus as Savior; it leads to eternal death in a place called Hell.

The born again Christian that hungers and thirsts after righteousness, reads the Bible with an attitude of seeking what the Lord wants. He prays on a regular basis as well.

And furthermore, a life that has thirsted after God will make you extremely happy when you stand before God in Heaven and you hear Him say "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy salvation".

Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger & thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Blessed in the KJV means "Happy" so it could be read like this: Happy are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Was Jesus talking about popcorn and drinking water or cola? No, He was talking about wanting to be Holy and Christ-like and that can only happen after you are born-again. He says that people that have a desire, a real hunger and thirst for the things of God will have them.