

Notes for Brian's Sermon at Brentwood Presbyterian Church

Sun, Mar 17, 2019 – Lent 2

Whence Come the Waters of Life?

(Psalm 63 with Refrain #2)

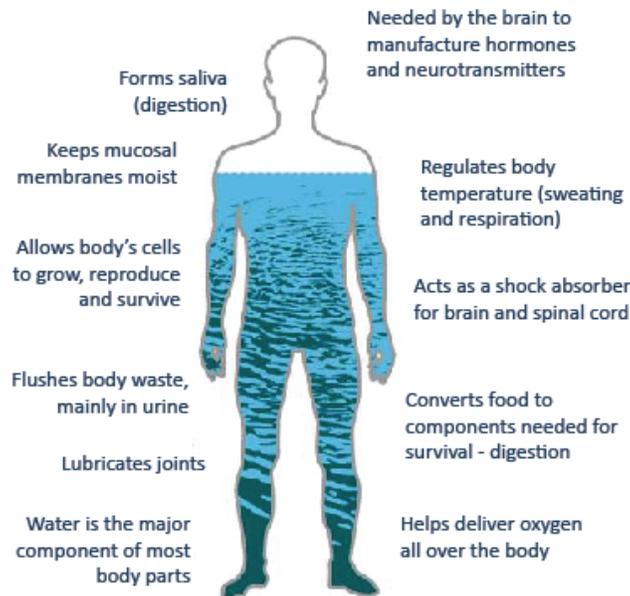


Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
(Psalm 63:3)

A lesson from Psalm 63

I've never spent any significant time in a desert – driven through them – in an air-conditioned car – as quickly as possible – but no exposure to the dry and arid heat that must have beat down upon many who had come to the temple in Jerusalem to worship in the words of this psalm – imagine yourself as one of those devout Jews – you've walked for days through the desert from your village with your family to observe one of the high holidays – when you come to one of the places where water is available, your lips are dry, caked with your sweat, maybe even cracked from the exposure – you can hardly make a sound – then the first touch of water – what a relief! – what a blessing! – God's steadfast love has shown itself again in the most simple of acts – drinking water – it's nothing you have produced, or earned, or manufactured – it's a gift of God's good creation – and everything you are or have depends on it - according to recent scientific measurements, the brain and heart are composed of 73% water, the lungs are about 83% water, the skin contains 64% water, muscles and kidneys are 79%, and even the bones are 31% water – about 60% over all - and how has God designed water to bless our human flourishing? – what does water do for us?

What Does Water do for You?



Provocative points to ponder – as always, too many to cram into one sermon

- In our modern, urban societies, we take this essential of life far more for granted than our ancestors in the faith on their way to the temple in Jerusalem – turn a tap, and there you have it – twist a cap and take a long, satisfying swallow – it’s just there
- But the community that composed and preserved this psalm looked at it differently – and it’s a significant difference – with the desert conditions all around them, they could not take water for granted – water was almost as precious to them as God’s love – and so the connection they drew – God’s love as the only real satisfaction for their thirsting souls, just as water was for their bodies – they developed a deep appreciation for both these gifts of life – water and God’s love – and our flourishing as the friends of Jesus would be enriched if we deepened our appreciation for this metaphor

How does this all relate to our witness as a fellowship of the friends of Jesus?

Here’s a practice to consider – a discipline to develop – how would our awareness of and appreciation for God’s steadfast love deepen if, over the next week (as a start), we simply said “Thank you, Lord,” every time we took a drink of water – a week of practicing that might very well make it habit – maybe over 100 little prayers of gratitude every day for God’s gift of water, being embedded into our neural pathways and being carried throughout our bodies by the very water we are receiving as gift – worth pondering and, I pray, practicing

My Notes

My Prayers

