

## The Way of Purity

### Day 46 – Habitual Sin Can't Hold Water

In this lesson, we will examine two things:

1. What God is like
2. What habitual sin is like

Please read the following scripture in preparation for today's study. You may want to memorize this verse, as there will be several questions on it.

**My people have committed two sins: they have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water. Jeremiah 2:13**

Question 1. In the above verse, how does God describe himself?

An angry Judge

The spring of living water

Question 2. What does living water provide?

Life

Refreshment

Satisfaction

Joy

Health

All of the above

Note: God describes himself as the spring of living water. He alone is the source of life, refreshment, joy, and nourishment for us. He is ever fresh and new, as a spring and, to drink of God, is to receive life and satisfaction!

Please read and comment on the following Scriptures:

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. Psalm 46:4**

Question 3. Write your thoughts on Psalm 46:4 here.

<sup>1</sup> **Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the**

**tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> No longer will there be any curse. Revelation 22:1-3**

Question 4. Write your thoughts on Revelation 22:1-3 here.

**My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water. Jeremiah 2:13**

Question 5. Write your thoughts on Jeremiah 2:13 here.

Course member Andre wrote, "The first sin we have committed is that we have rejected God and the satisfying water that He provides. We have laid down our beautiful, holy cisterns, and picked up dirty, broken cisterns that cannot hold water, leaving us thirsty. The only way to find satisfaction again is to repent, to go back to our true cisterns, and start drinking of the living water again."

Course member Tony wrote, "This verse brings to mind Dante's *Inferno*. In his description of hell, the inhabitants of one particular circle are sentenced to eternally fill and re-fill leaky jars. When I find myself constantly refilling my leaky "jar" of pornography, it's a reminder that I'm not looking to the Lord to fulfill my needs."

Question 6. According to Jeremiah 2:13, when people forsake God, they turn to something else. According to the above verse, to what do they turn?

Something better

Something enjoyable

Something broken, that cannot hold water or satisfy

Question 7. Early in this course we learned two important truths: 1. Habitual sin will not ultimately satisfy, 2. Only Jesus can satisfy. How does Jeremiah 2:13 teach these two truths? Please write your answer here.

Course member Andre wrote, "We are trying to find satisfaction in pornography with these broken cisterns. We try again and again, but it continues to leave us thirsty, because we are using broken cisterns. We need to return to our Spring and drink of the water that Jesus provides. That is the only way we can truly be satisfied."

Question 8. Please read this quote from the famous preacher, Charles Spurgeon, and record your comments about it,

*Men are in a restless pursuit after satisfaction in earthly things. They will exhaust themselves in the deceitful delights of sin, and, finding them all to be vanity and emptiness, they will become very perplexed and disappointed. But they will still continue their fruitless search.*

*Though wearied, they still stagger forward under the influence of spiritual madness, and though there is no result to be reached except that of everlasting disappointment, yet they press forward. They have no forethought for their eternal state; the present hour absorbs them. They turn to another and another of earth's broken cisterns, hoping to find water where not a drop was ever discovered yet.*

Question 9. From Jeremiah 2:13, please complete these sentences

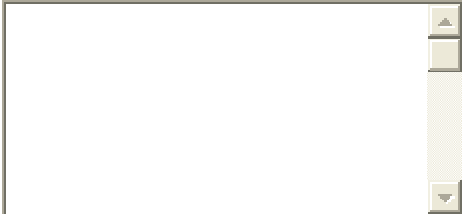
God is like...

Habitual sin is like...

Question 10. How does Ephesians 4:19 apply to what we are studying? "Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more." Write your answer here.

Question 11. Please comment on the following quote:

*For what is the sum and substance of these simple words? It is this: Christ is that Fountain of living water, which God has graciously provided for thirsting souls. From Him, as out of the rock smitten by Moses, there flows an abundant stream for all who travel through the wilderness of this world. In Him, as our Redeemer and Substitute, crucified for our sins and raised again for our justification, there is an endless supply of all that men can need: pardon, absolution, mercy, grace, peace, rest, relief, comfort and hope. J. C. Ryle*



This is Matthew Henry's commentary on Jeremiah 2:13. I believe you will profit from reading it:

*There is in Him an all-sufficiency of grace and strength; all our springs are in Him and our streams from him; to forsake Him is, in effect, to deny this. He has been to us a bountiful benefactor, a fountain of living waters, overflowing, ever flowing, in the gifts of his favor; to forsake Him is to refuse to acknowledge His kindness and to withhold that tribute of love and praise which His kindness calls for.*

*Those who forsake Him cheat themselves, they forsook their own mercies, but it was for lying vanities. They took a great deal of pains to hew themselves out cisterns, to dig pits or pools in the earth or rock which they would carry water to, or which should receive the rain; but they proved broken cisterns, false at the bottom, so that they could hold no water. When they came to quench their thirst there they found nothing but mud and mire, and the filthy sediments of a standing lake. Such idols were to their worshippers, and such a change did those experience who turned from God to them.*

*If we make an idol of any creature - wealth, or pleasure, or honor, if we place our happiness in it, and promise ourselves the comfort and satisfaction in it which are to be had in God only, if we make it our joy and love, our hope and confidence, we shall find it a cistern, which we take a great deal of pains to hew out and fill, and at the best it will hold but a little water, and that dead and flat, and soon corrupting and becoming nauseous. No, it is a broken cistern, which cracks and cleaves in hot weather, so that the water is lost when we have most need of it. Let us therefore with purpose of heart cleave to the Lord only, for where else shall we go? He has the words of eternal life.*

Thoughts to consider today:

**For with You is the fountain of life... Psalm 36:9a**

**<sup>14</sup> A despairing man should have the devotion of his friends, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty. <sup>15</sup> But my brothers are as undependable as intermittent streams, as the streams that overflow <sup>16</sup> when darkened by thawing ice and swollen with melting snow, <sup>17</sup> but that cease to flow in the dry season, and in the heat vanish from their**

**channels. <sup>18</sup> Caravans turn aside from their routes; they go up into the wasteland and perish. <sup>19</sup> The caravans of Tema look for water, the traveling merchants of Sheba look in hope. <sup>20</sup> They are distressed, because they had been confident; they arrive there, only to be disappointed. <sup>21</sup> Now you too have proved to be of no help; you see something dreadful and are afraid. Job 6:14-21**

**<sup>1</sup> As a deer thirsts for streams of water, so I thirst for you, God. I thirst for the living God. <sup>2</sup> When can I go to meet with him? Psalm 42:1-2**

Question 12. Have you gained any insights, or been reminded of any truths in today's teaching?

