

Augustana College
Chapel of Reconciliation

Thirsty

Carly LaCroix

October 17, 2003

Let's close our eyes for a moment and entertain a visual. It's summer, 98 degrees and you have been hiking at Newton Hills for hours in the afternoon. You forgot to bring a water bottle, so all you can think about is a cool, crisp, refreshing glass of water. You're hot, tired, sweaty and ready to be done hiking. You're about to collapse but then you spot a water fountain in the park. You run over to it and push the button. But nothing comes out!

Living on the prairie, we don't have to be very inventive to imagine dryness. Droughts plague most of the summers and even the winters, stretched for so many months, leave the earth unrefreshed.

In the psalm 137, the captive Israelites hang up their instruments because they cannot play or sing. Their tongues cling to the roofs of their mouths. What a captivating image of dryness and what thirst they would have felt being so distraught as they remember Zion.

Thirst is of particular interest to me because I have spent a lot of time dry in my faith. Don't get me wrong, I have always believed in God and tried to trust his will, but I have not always felt emotion when I've prayed or even sang. I've often wondered, "What's wrong with me? What am I doing wrong? Why can't I feel anything?"

Examining the text from Mark 1:12-13, even Jesus goes to a dry place. In the desert Jesus stays for forty days being tempted by the devil. Though through His thirst and His struggles, it says that 'He was with wild beasts and the angels attended Him.' God did NOT forget about Him.

Dryness can be a temptation to fall away from God, but it can also be gift. Through the times when we aren't experiencing an emotive faith, we are shown the true meaning of faith. We can rely on God to give us the tools necessary to trust him and keep following His will.

I'd like to recite part of a song by Chris Rice for you called "Live by Faith."

I can't feel you moving inside
I can't hear your voice whispering in the night
And I've never seen you move these eyes. Am I a fool?
They ask how I follow what I can't see
Why I trust in a love that my arms won't reach
I don't mean I don't need you to prove to me. I'll be a fool. Am I just a fool?
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe
Blessed are the hands that keep giving and never receive
Blessed is the heart that gets broken but keeps holding on for another day
Because that's what it means to live by faith

I think that this illustrates well a typical person who doesn't have all of the answers about faith, but who still chooses to believe in Christ.

Ever since freshman year, I have been worried about this day. I don't particularly enjoy speaking in front of people, and I worried that I would have nothing to offer. I was scared to be up here alone. But don't think for a second that I AM up here alone. God is with me. He knows my weaknesses, where I need Him, where I am dry and where I thirst.

In John 4:1-15, Jesus offers the woman water of eternal life, where she would never thirst again. He does this not because she deserves it, but because He loves her.

God offers us the same thing. He knows that we can't feel all of the time. But He recognizes devotion none the less. If you put yourself out there for God, He will fill that gap in your heart, heal your pain and quench your thirst with the waters of eternal life.

Amen.

“FORGIVEN”

**At the end of the day
when I try to pray
and all I can say to you, God, is
“You know me and my ways”**

**I feel so dry inside
I thought I would die from thirst
It’s been so long
since I felt anything but hurt**

**You fill me up with your love
and you touch my heart with feeling
You give me back the joy
And tell me I’m forgiven**

**I have no soul in my song
and no love in my soul
help me to know where I’m wrong
I trust your path more than my own**

- Carly LaCroix

MORNING WORSHIP
Friday, October 17, 2003

Prelude “Thirsty” By Chris Rice

Welcome/Announcements

Opening prayer

Opening song “We Are the Light of the World”

Blessed are they who are poor in spirit,
theirs is the kingdom of God..

Bless us, O Lord, make us poor in spirit;
bless us, O Lord, our God.

Refrain:

*We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all,
that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.*

Blessed are they who will mourn in sorrow,
they will be comforted.

Bless us, O Lord, when we share their sorrow;
bless us, O Lord, our God. *Refrain*

Bless those who hunger and thirst for justice,
they will be satisfied.

Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for justice;
bless us, O Lord, our God. *Refrain*

Jean Anthony Greif

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Scripture John 4: 1-14

Psalm 137

Mark 1: 12-13

Sermon title “Thirsty”

Carly LaCroix

Major: Chemistry

Hometown: Sioux Falls

Song “Forgiven” by Carly LaCroix

Prayer

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude “Forever” by Chris Tomlin

CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU for assisting with worship today:

Lindsey Hibma, Elizabeth Cruse, Megan Mathison, Matt Grandbois, Kevin Stillson, Autumn Dockter, Ann Rosendale, Todd Manion, Shane Wuebben, Nick Kuhlman, Pr. Paul and my loving mother, Carol LaCroix and the rest of my family.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

SUNDAY Worship, 11 am - Pr. Paul

MONDAY Worship, 10 am - Br. Ha Tran, St. Joseph Indian School and Collegiate Chorale

TUESDAY Worship, 10 am - *Sinai* Praise Band

WEDNESDAY Holy Communion, 10 am - Dick Hanson, Acad. Dean and Women's Choir

FRIDAY Worship, 10 am - Nathan Hecht, Senior Speaker