



No Wake Zone

Part 7 – Soul Toxins

Pastor Ted Cunningham

We're going to continue in this series that we've been in called *No Wake Zone*. I met some new friends this week. I wanted to show you a quick picture (group of Santa Clauses). I had a great time. Was this a great week in Branson or what? I thought for years that my retirement job in Branson was going to be the manager of Long Creek Marina. I had already told the Bass Pro people that in 25 years, this is the job I want, but I don't know anymore. I'm thinking my figure is coming in line with my friends here. I have a beard; I just have to get a little more gray. I had such a great time talking to them. These guys are chatter boxes.

I went up to them and asked if I could take their picture. As soon as I asked, this guy says, "We hate having our pictures taken." He's an angry little Santa, but you can kind of tell he's the northern most Santa. These three guys here, true story, are all from Anaheim. No wonder they're so happy; they're the Disney Santas.

I said, "Bro, are we going to get this fixed by Christmas?" You see he's got a little thing on his leg.

He said, "We've got it taken care of; there will be no problem."

If you're here today, we welcome all the Santas. We're glad that you're here. I know they're here through today. It was like a one week long... Look, there are four people. Let's welcome the Santas. That's ridiculous.

This has kind of been my week. I just jumped up and ran around and changed some programming things to just kind of go with where we've been this week. Sometimes, living in Branson is odd. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? It's like are we part of the real world or are we in our own little bubble? I would say we are in our own little bubble.

So, I'm talking to Santa, but then, with my family, I turn on the news and see the chaos around us. I've been trying to think this week about what my kids need to know about Orlando, Dallas, Minnesota. Hopefully, you're having these conversations at home. Let me just tell you a couple of things I've shared with my kids and I'll continue to share with my kids as the days go on, but hopefully you'll be sharing with your family as well.

The first thing... And I brought this up at dinner last night again. I said, "Corynn and Carson, man is created in the image of God, which gives us automatic intrinsic value. We are valuable because of the image of God stamped on us." Then I always love asking this question. Carson is my passionate apologist. I said, "Are we more important than an ape in a zoo?"

Carson sighs heavily and goes, "Yes, dad."

I said, "Okay, good. I just want to make sure you get that people are valuable, that people, not animals, bear the image of God. But let me tell you another thing. The second thing is people are equally valued. Whether it's the born or the unborn, whether it is the male or the female, whether black or white..." Now this part... A lot of you are with me on this, but I want to keep adding to it. "Whether Christian or Muslim, whether heterosexual or homosexual."

I don't just stop there because I have to keep going with the kids. I said, "Listen, you don't choose whether you are born male or female. Male and female, he created them. God gives you your gender. God gives you your color. Let me explain something to you. You aren't born Christian. You aren't born Muslim. You aren't born heterosexual. You aren't born homosexual. The Bible says this very clearly. All who are conceived are conceived in iniquity. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We are born, we are created in the image of God, and we are to value men and women because of the image of God in them. Not because of what they do. Not because of the country that they live in. And not even because of the religion that they choose. We are to value people."

Now let me keep going with this a little further. I think I'm on number five in what I'm sharing with them. We're not the first nation to rebel against God. That's why I want to encourage you to turn in your Bibles to Isaiah 55. That's where we are going to end up this morning. We are going to see another nation that rebelled against God, but we're going to see the compassion of our Lord because this is the last thing I want to make sure my kids are clearly understanding. When a nation repents, God forgives. When a nation turns back to God, he is compassionate and gracious and will forgive.

We need to learn from history. We need to learn from what's going on around us. We need to be praying, but I have to tell you something. There is more that we can do than just pray. As I look around the nation, when tragedy hits us, we want to pray quick. I think prayer is that great uniter, yes, but we forget that prayer is coming before almighty God, confessing our sin before him. We go to prayer, but it's so short-lived. What is the change? When are we going to change?

Here's the Proverb that keeps coming back to me this week. ***The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways.*** I hope that when you turn on the news and you see tragedy hit our nation, you're not just getting mad. I hope you, individually, and then you in your whole family are giving thought to your ways. "How are we doing? Before I start judging racism in another state, why don't I take a look at my own? Before I start judging about racism in another situation with a police stop that I don't even know all the facts or details, before I start worrying about the racism there, why don't I start worrying about the racism in my own heart. Why don't I start dealing with the way I pull my kids in closer when I see a nationality that I think is up to no good coming towards me? Why don't I deal with

that first before dealing with it in the heart of another man? I want to give thought to the ways of my heart.”

Here’s the bottom line. ***The folly of fools is deception.*** I don’t want to be a deceived individual. I don’t want to share lies about myself. So, we’re in this series called *No Wake Zone* and the no wake zone is the perfect place to give thought to your ways. The whole point of this series is that we would relax our pace, replenish our souls, have a restored soul, renewed purpose. That we can come out of the no wake zone as we head back into a new school year full throttle, ready to go, but we give thought to our ways that we’re not running crazy at a chaotic, frantic pace. This much I know. I’ve never met an individual that sits in front of me with their life falling apart over an affair or bankrupt business or having walked away from a family, walked away from God, an alcoholic, a sex addict, a drug dealer... I don’t ever sit in front of someone that says, “You know what? I woke up a few years ago and decided to sabotage my life.” I’ve never met that person. I’ve never met a couple that says, “You know what? It’s not going well, but this is how we planned it. We choose this.” You have to help them process through that to realize that they actually made a bunch of little choices that led them to this. You maybe didn’t know it, but you were planning this, you were choosing this. No one sets out to sabotage their lives. This is why we give thought to our ways.

My friend Lance Witt... I’ve shared him and his ministry with you often. His whole ministry is called Replenish. Honestly, Lance Witt is a big reason why I still pastor at Woodland Hills Family Church. He’s still teaching me how to live from a replenished soul. Most leaders don’t. Most leaders get going, going, going, and build, build, build, and more, more, more, campuses, campuses, services, serviced, offerings, offerings. Then after about ten to fifteen years, they’re like, “Yeah, I’ll do something else.”

Lance shares these four soul toxins that are different. Maybe you’ve not thought about them in this way. These are four soul toxins that I think about on a regular basis as I give thought to my ways, so that I don’t live in deception.

1. Wearing Busyness as a Badge

We get busy, we enjoy being busy because it’s distraction. Busyness can be just like what a drink is to an alcoholic. It’s just numbing. “Well, busyness is numbing my schedule and my family and so long as we don’t slow down and ask questions, we’ll be okay. Just keep going and keep going and keep going.”

Lance said, “I got to a place in my ministry where people would come up to me all the time and say, ‘I know you’re busy, but...’” He said, “That’s a problem. If people are approaching you right now and always saying ‘I know your busy, but,’ that’s a problem.”

You should be able to say, “Actually, I’m not.” This is kind of my joke when people say, “I know you’re busy, but.” I say, “Actually, I’m not busy.” Then they start talking to me and I’m like, “Hey, whoa, back it down a notch. If you start talking to me right now, I’ll be busy.”

2. Image Management

I don't think we know a whole lot about this today, but it's this thing called social media. It's where we spend an entire day managing our image, making sure people see the best in us, making sure people know that even when we are looking at our soul... We have to be careful when we do all this soul searching on social media. Give thought to your ways. Don't ask 500 friends to give thought to your ways. You give thought to your ways. You process what the Lord is telling you. You don't have to share it all on Facebook. You don't have to share it all on social media.

Do you know the only thing worse than sitting there all day long and thumbing through social media feeds, which is mind numbing and exhausting? The only thing worse is when you decide you're not going to do this, but you end up sitting next to someone who is going to share their feed with you. Corynn will get on and... At night now, I plug in my phone in the bathroom. I charge it away from me. So, if you ever have an emergency at night, I'm sorry, you won't be able to get hold of me. You'll probably be gone by the time I get the message, but that is a guaranteed funeral. I will do your funeral, I promise. If I miss the call, know I will have a replenished soul as I preach your funeral.

The phone just got too much. I didn't need it like a leash on me all day. Can I get an amen? Then Corynn would start reading to me off her social media and I would have to stop her. The whole reason I don't have mine... And I don't want to hear about yours. I don't care what some guy said. I'm done with it. I don't need image management to drain my soul all day long. And I don't need to be constantly worrying about the images of all the other people that I'm following on social media.

Do you know what we were going to do in part of this series? Maybe we still should. Amy and I had this great idea and we've just kind of tabled it. I was going to get two lock boxes; one for the 9:00 am service and one for the 11:00 am service. I was going to grab the 9:00 am service and I was going to have a key. I was going to open the box and invite anyone that thinks they can live without their mobile device for a week to come put it in the box. We would lock it up, keep it somewhere safe. I'd give the key to Pat Kershaw. Then the next week, you would get your phone back and we would interview you about how terrible your life was for the past week.

Let me just see if that was an okay idea. How many of you would participate in that challenge? Oh get out of here. No you wouldn't. It's easy because it's all just "we were thinking about doing it." I just saw 50 hands go up. Some of you are going *I know that's a good idea, but with my hand quivering all week... As I walked down the street, people would be wondering why I keep going like this* (scrolling motion). It's because you are addicted to image management.

3. The Seduction of Ambition

It happens even in the church. It's why when some are like, "Hey when are we doing this or that," our answer is kind of a joke around here, but we're like, "Naah." That's because "naah" is a way of replenishing our souls. We don't need the next thing.

Here's what I think the problem is in the church today. Right now, I'm speaking as a pastor. The ministry is not a bunch of lone rangers out there getting things done for the kingdom. We are part of a bigger picture. Do you know why you give today to support missions? Do you know why you give today to give money to a nation that you'll never visit and you'll probably even barely know about? It's because this church is not called to be a lone ranger. We're not called to spread the gospel all by ourselves. We're called to do this in the body of Christ, in the bigger picture.

This seduction of ambition just says do more, do more, do more, and it's affecting many of you this morning. It's a toxin in your soul that you have reached a good place with your business, you've done well. I've talked to business men around here all the time. They're like "Man, I was doing so well with these two hotels, but then I bought a third." Why, I have no idea. "I was doing really well keeping my business going with two or three trucks, but then I bought ten more." They will say, "I just had a better quality of life with the two or three trucks. I actually had a better quality of life with the one truck."

This seduction of just do more and bigger and bigger. Let me tell you that we have to separate between our independent, American dream mindset and being followers of Jesus. We're Christians that live in a nation that is free and allows you opportunity, but don't allow opportunity to drain your soul.

4. Approval Junkie

"I say yes to everything. Whatever people want from me, I do. I get after it just so they'll like me, so they'll know I am an important person."

What do we do with these four soul toxins? If you'll give thought to your ways with these toxins, here's the way the second part of that Proverb goes. Here's how we deceive ourselves when we realize we're caught in this:

1. It's normal. Everybody deals with this. It's normal that our family is into sports. You know this is kind of my kick lately. I just want to find a sports league that you can put your kid in without asking them for a lifetime commitment. Sometimes it's crazy. We're all on this crazy bus together, driving off a cliff. No one is standing up and saying, "Stop." Why? It's because we're all saying, "This is normal." I can be on my phone eight hours a day, scrolling through social media because every single person in here does that, except for the 50 of you holy ones who just raised your hand. You are the ones we shall be learning from. But we think this is normal and it's how it should be.

2. It is manageable. There are some recovering addicts in here today who would say, "That's where it really gets bad." This is a lie we start telling ourselves. "Yes, I know it gets out of control at times, but most of the time, I can manage it. Most of the time, I'm able to keep it together."

3. It's just a season. "I know I'm a workaholic, but it's just a season." Can I just help my entertaining friends figure out something just a little bit here? Your season is ten months long. That's not a season, that's what we like to call a year. I know you live for that one month off, but let me tell you that draining your soul for ten months a year, two shows a day, six days a week, or three shows a day, six days a week is not good for your soul. I say that from a pastor who cares for you. You need to think about your soul.

Can I just encourage business owners around here? Maybe you should settle with making this much and not this much because you're caring for the souls of your people. I get it. Amy has to remind me that maybe more isn't the solution. Maybe less is the solution. Maybe we get growing personally and with ministry and all that. Maybe the next opportunity that comes your way that you're like, "Oh, that's a great opportunity. A crazy person would say no to that..." Well, maybe it's time some of us get a little crazy because it's not a season.

Some of you need to get a more manageable season. Maybe March through December. To be honest with you, I get worn out sometimes looking... I go to the shows. Listen, you go to the shows here come fall and you watch some of the entertainers. They are burned out. It's too much.

4. It is my responsibility. "It's my job. This is just what you do. You just muscle through." Yes, hard work... ***Go to the ant, you sluggard, consider his ways and be wise.*** Yes, I get that. Hard work is important, but how much of it moves way beyond just hard work to the seduction of ambition, that approval, that you've got to be known as something.

The goal of this series is to give thought to your ways. This is a good time of year to do that. Here's what we know. **Your greatest need is not your physical, emotional, or financial wellbeing.** Those are overflow. Those are what we call the outpouring of what your greatest need truly is. Your greatest need is to know God and make sense out of life. Your greatest need this week is not trying to figure out what's going on with gun control.

I sat down on Friday morning and I started going like crazy on my phone. We used to say typing was like this, but most kids can't really grasp that. I'm just typing it out and I'm getting it going, but I thought *Do you know what our nation doesn't need?* As I'm trying to make sense out of life and give thought to my ways this week. Our nation doesn't need just another moment of silence; our nation needs a season of repentance. Our nation doesn't need more gun control; our nation needs more self-control. Our nation doesn't need more laws; our nation needs more of the law giver. Our nation doesn't need another president that speaks out of both sides of his or her mouth; our nation needs a president like we had 150 years ago that stood up one day and said "No man shall own another man." Our nation doesn't need a president who thinks that our greatest need is the economy. Our greatest need is going to the true and only source of life. Our nation doesn't need another church full of Christians or followers of Jesus that find time when it's convenient or fits the schedule. We need those who know who the true and only source of life is and find the Lord as a dwelling place. We don't need more of ourselves. We need more of Jesus. This is how I'm processing and making sense out of life this week.

In Proverbs 14: 12... Some of us, as we begin processing and giving thought to our ways, we start solving our problems on our own. Proverbs 14: 12 says, ***There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.*** There is a way that we say "Do you know what? We've got this." But, I hope, as you process this week and look at the chaos going on around you, you look up and say "We ain't got this; You've got this."

Here's the problem. The source is unknown on this next part here, but I read it this week and I thought it needed to be shared. Half our troubles come from wanting our own way. The other half come from

having it. Half of our troubles come from saying, "I'm going to take care of this by myself." The other half says, "Okay, then you get it." This is the sum total of our problems. This is what we call rebellion. This is what the Bible calls sin. Changing your behavior is not the solution. Changing your behavior is not what will make you right with God. That's not the goal of this morning. You are not the source of your wellbeing.

This is my go-to line. I feel I have to quote Oprah around here once a month just so you know. But, cuddling your inner self is not going to help your wellbeing. Some of you in the no wake zone realize you don't need another romance novel to figure out how to spice up your marriage. You don't need another self-help book to figure out how to improve your life. You need to turn to the true and only source of life because the bottom line is this. Jesus meets your greatest need. He's the only one that you can turn to.

I love this text. Before we get to Isaiah 55, I want to introduce it with John 4 and the Samaritan woman at the well. I read this text several times this week and I was struck again by this idea. In that day, a woman would go outside of the city to go to the well, which was typically by a roadside. They would draw in the morning and at night. The scripture gives this detail in the account of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman. The Samaritans were half breeds. This is why Jews didn't want to have anything to do with them, so there was a lot of racial tension going on here. Jesus met her and it says he met her at noontime. Many believe it was at noontime that this particular woman was going to the well because of her reputation.

Jesus calls it out in this passage. He doesn't even have to ask. He doesn't need to get the details from her because he's the Messiah and he already knows. He looks right at her and says, "Yeah, I know you've been looking for the source of life in those five husbands that you had. You didn't find it there. And the guy you're living with now... So, you didn't find it in these five marriages and now your cohabitating with this guy and you're not finding it there either."

I can get some women to say amen to this. Your husband is not your source of life. For some of you, your marriage problems are from looking to your husband as the source of life. He may be your family's source of income, but he is not your family's source of life. He may be the source of discipline in your home, but he ain't the source of life.

I want us to just look at this. We can't read the whole story, but ***10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink..."*** Jesus had asked her for a drink and she is asking all sorts of questions. It's a great text if you have time later today to read it with your family. ***"...you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."*** Living water is the theme we are going to see throughout all the text and especially in Isaiah and Jeremiah this morning.

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep." This conversation is back and forth. She's in the physical and Jesus is in the spiritual. She keeps looking at him, wondering why he didn't bring something to carry the water in. She can't get out of the physical need and Jesus is trying to explain to her the source behind all of that. Spiritual, emotional, relational, financial, mental... With all of it, the underlying source of life is not you. It's not this well.

The Samaritan woman continues, ***“Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”***

13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again...” I love this picture. A couple of times in our married life, we’ve been at home and someone doing construction has knocked on the door and said “Hey, we’re cutting the water off down the street for the next hour.” What’s your very first thought when you hear that? “Oh my goodness, I am dying of thirst.”

Yesterday, we were at a swim meet for nine hours. Can I get a round of applause for me being at a swim meet for nine hours? We set up a tent. I went to Coleman the night before and spend \$800.00 so I could be comfortable at this swim meet. Amy and I were in charge of hospitality from 1:00 to 3:00. It was interesting to me... Everybody is great at hospitality, but I went in and... And, it’s hot. It got to 91 when my apps said it was only supposed to get to 87. Isn’t that frustrating. My app is rarely ever right.

My dad loves this story. We were on the boat, getting ready to get poured on. My dad goes, “Well, it looks like it’s going to rain.”

I’m like, “My app says we’re not getting any rain right now.”

My dad goes, “Will you put down your dang phone and look in the sky.”

It was hot yesterday. I’m going to shout out to a couple of people. I think Matt Ingram is back at another swim meet this morning. He stood at this tent outside. He had his fishing hat on outside for like seven hours. He was in charge of the bullpen, getting the swimmers ready for the next race. I watched all these timers and the officials out there. They are sweating bullets.

We were at the tent from 1:00 to 3:00, which meant we go get the drinks in the wheel barrel and we’re supposed to walk them around and give them to everybody. I went up at 1:00 and looked in and all the water in there was in those little Dixie Cups. My very first thought was *We’re giving people shots of water? It’s 91 degrees out there and they’ve been standing out there for six hours. They’re dying of thirst and we’re giving them drinks out of vacation Bible school products? This is ridiculous.*

So we got a cooler and ice and we filled up 16-ounce ice waters. When we came around, my role was to ask if anybody needed something to drink. There were probably about 75 people. They all said, “No, we’re good.” I think they were thinking it was going to be just another Dixie Cup of lukewarm water. When they turned around and saw this wheel barrel full of 16-ounce ice water, I loved the expression on their faces. They reached in and grabbed the water. We did that circuit like five or six times in an hour and a half period. Once people saw it, once they got it, once they knew it, they knew it was good stuff and they were guzzling it. Why? It’s because they were dehydrated. And, when a couple of the bigger guys were saying they didn’t need the water, I said, “Listen, your mother ain’t here so get some water.”

Sometimes, we don’t know what our need is until we see it. Sometimes we don’t know what our need is until we experience it. That’s many of you. You come in here and your life is a wreck; you don’t really know what’s going on. That’s because you’re chasing the wrong thing. You know there is some

brokenness, you know there is something that could be better, but you're misplacing what your greatest need is. You're trying to fix your greatest need, which actually isn't your greatest need. Finding Jesus is your greatest need. Please understand today we've been praying for you that the Holy Spirit would call you by name and for you to understand that your greatest need is not what you came in here thinking your greatest need was.

That's exactly what's going on in this story and it's going to come around. Jesus said, **14 "...but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."** He is saying, "I will quench what you think is your greatest need. I will take care of that. Me as your dwelling place, me as the one you seek and stay close to... Don't stress over the finances. Don't stress over the physical and the emotional. You stay close to me. You draw from me." **"Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."**

Go with me to Isaiah 55 because we are going to see the picture of the compassion God shows on a nation that rebelled against him. He's going to remind them, as we are also going to see in Jeremiah, that he is the true spring of eternal life. He's the spring of living water.

1 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost." It's important to understand what's going on here. It's not come to Jesus, experience salvation... Jesus is going to come out in this Old Testament passage of Isaiah 55. As you go through your Old Testament more and more as we looked at Psalm 91 last week and Isaiah 55 this week, I hope you see Jesus coming out in the passages. Here it's not come to Jesus and your financial needs will be fully met. That's not at all what this text is saying. This text is saying you can't buy your salvation. No amount of money is going to buy for you what you need. You who have money, you who have nothing, your greatest need is met in Jesus.

Some will pay for religion, some will pay to get in with the high ups in a religion or even in a church, but here, the Prophet Isaiah, is coming at his people and reminding them to understand the Lord is compassionate and will restore. You have nothing to bring and nothing to offer. That's how salvation works. This is where we are supposed to be. We come before our heavenly Father and have nothing to offer. For it's by grace we are saved through faith. It's not of works so I can't boast about it. I got nothing to bring to this equation; it's all God. Jesus and his completed work; that's it.

2 "Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. 3 Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David." God made many covenants throughout the Old Testament. The one that still sticks today, the Noahic Covenant, is that he will never again flood the earth. We have the rainbow to make good on that promise and to remind us of that promise. The Davidic Covenant is that the kingdom and the throne of David will endure forever. This is why when you read Matthew 1, the very first chapter of the New Testament, the very first chapter of the gospels, the genealogy of Jesus is spelled out so you can see that it is the Messiah that is the faithful one that comes to rule on the throne of David and the kingdom that will be established here upon this earth.

4 See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. 5 Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.

6 "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon." I hope you see what can still work today. Turning to the Lord individually and turning to the Lord as a nation.

8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.

9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. This is important. As you give thought to your ways in recent days, as you are in the no wake zone, thinking through what your life is supposed to be and how you are supposed to live and how to make sense of all that is going on around you, that you put aside your ways and they would be replaced with His ways. We understand clearly... I don't get to decide my gender; it's already been decided for me. I don't get to decide what marriage is and what marriage is not. God already instituted that. I don't get to decide the responsibility of a parent. That's not something for me to figure out. That's something the Lord has already given to me. How I'm to live in community with you. As I give thought to my ways, I want His ways. How does He want me to deal with this and how does He want me to deal with you and how does He want us to deal with each other?

Jeremiah 2 puts it this way. ***"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water..."*** So they have forsaken the Lord. In that day there were three sources of water. There was living water, spring water, fresh water that came down off the mountainside. Then there was the well that was perhaps fed by a spring. And then the third one was a cistern. The cistern was what collected rain water. Jeremiah says, "You have forsaken the living water, the best, for cisterns." ***"...and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."*** "So, you've exchanged the best for not the least, but for nothing. You've exchanged the unlimited supply of your heavenly Father for nothing." You want a little bit, but you don't want the whole.

This is what Jesus declared in John 6: 35. ***"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."***

Have you ever heard someone use this expression? They say, "I need more God in my life." I always like to dig a little bit deeper when I hear someone say "I need more God. I know things aren't what they should be, but I just need a little more God." When I hear someone say "I need more God in my life," I kind of get this picture that they just want a shot of God. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? "I want to come to church on Sunday morning. I just need a shot. I don't want to become a Jesus freak. I don't want to become fanatical. I don't want to become crazy and weird. Ted, I don't want to become like you. You seem emotionally unstable at times. Just give me a little bit."

Then you go, "Okay, that was good. I like Sunday morning, so I'm going to go two weeks in a row. I'm going to do a Bible study and get a little bit more God." Then, remember when we went to camp? Camp was a lot more. We got a week of intense... Then we came home. Does anybody remember

camp stories at church. Sunday night was camp story time and everybody stood up and the testimony was the same. "I love camp; can't wait to go again next year." Then we start thinking we need vacation Bible school. We had revivals growing up. We start to look at the unlimited supply in our life as just these little hits that we get periodically and throughout the week and throughout our year.

I don't think that's what Jesus meant when he said "Drink from me and you will never thirst again." I don't think the picture that we have there in Isaiah and in Jeremiah is "Come and get sips from me when you're depleted. Come and get a little bit when you thirst." That's not the word picture that we walk away with. The word picture that we walk away with is "Stay connected to the true and only source of life. Drink from me and you will never thirst again."

I think this is the emphasis we have when we read Deuteronomy 6. "Don't just talk about me in the morning. Don't just have a quiet time. That's not it. As you go along throughout the day from here to there and then when you get back home at night, let your conversation, all day long, be about me. Talk about me in everything. When you watch the news, think of my thoughts and my ways towards that." When you see siblings not treating one another well, let's get his thoughts on this. When a friend of yours tells a racist joke, what are the Lord's thoughts on this. This is what it means to be connected to the true and only source.

This is a limited illustration, but I think it works none the less. I asked them to hook this fire hose up outside and we're going to try... I don't know exactly how this works. See, we had it going earlier today, so it's ready to go. No, we're not going to turn it on, but you get it. That's even a limited supply. It's not just little shots of God with a little bit here and there, it's life, it's an unlimited supply, it's connect to him and you will never thirst again.

Here's what I think is the main emphasis. Jesus is not a source of life. "I have my work and my family and I've got community and I've got a swim meet and I've got all this stuff going on. There's room for God right over there. I just need a little bit of him to make sense out of all this." That's not it at all. He is not a source. He didn't say, "I am a way, a truth, a life." He said, "I am **the** source. I am **the** one that makes sense out of all of it." And may you and may our nation return to the unlimited supply of the true and only source of Jesus. And all God's people said... Amen.

Father, it's in the name of Jesus that we thank you for today, a time where we can gather to pray. We're going to do something very special today, Lord. Giving thought to our ways as a nation, we have a lot of repentance that we need to do as a church. As one pastor said, before we can call the world to repentance, it's about time the church repents. So, I am repenting today on behalf of so much going on in our nation where it looks like we have lost our minds and it's because we have. That people will mourn the life lost in an animal, but yet look recklessly and turn their backs on the unborn. That we would look to people of a different skin color and think they are lessor than us. We confess that before you.

We confess before you that we like our own ways and we want to vote in people that represent our thoughts, but really we should always be thinking of your thoughts. We need men and women leaders who represent you, not us. I pray you be with this nation in the next four months as we elect a

president. I pray that we will wake up. I know many churches today around this country are not only praying for those affected in Minnesota and in Dallas and in Orlando. We pray for the families of all those who have lost their lives. We ask not just for prayer for them, but that we would take this time and we would repent and enter into a season of repentance. Father, we give thought to our ways that they would be your ways and we would not live in deception.

We are grateful for what you are doing in this community. Call this church out in areas where we need to confess that you are not the primary source in leading out. It is in the name of Jesus that everyone agreed and said... Amen.