

“Why Do Some People Drink From the Sewer?”

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I just returned last week from leading a group to the Land of Israel. It was my 5th time going, but bringing others who have never been to God’s land has never ceased to provide opportunities to see God’s Word in 3-D. Every place we went there was something about the geography that lends itself to highlight a spiritual lesson. One of my favorite places to go in all of Israel is to a place called Engedi (1 Samuel 24:1). You might remember that this is the place where David hid from Saul in a cave and cut off part of his robe. Engedi is in the desert area of Judah near the Dead Sea and the temperature was 85 degrees for us while we were there on November 8. Apart from being a hot desert place it also contains several springs that burst forth out of the desert ground and provide cool, refreshing, life-giving water. The contrasts are amazing for where the water is there is life, but just a few feet away from the streams of water, it is nothing but dry and dusty without any vegetation.

David writes about being in a place just like this in Psalm 63. The lesson that I shared with our group at Engedi was from Jeremiah 2:13 which reads, “*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.*” The phrase “living water” refers to streams, springs, or rivers that are moving as opposed to cisterns which hold water that is not moving. Cistern water also can become stagnant and dirty. God has an indictment against us in that we have forsaken Him, a cool, refreshing, life-giving spring and instead turned to our own ways. We do this by trying to dig our own cistern which can’t hold water anyway. It is amazing to me today to see that Jesus offers us life-giving springs of water (John 4:14) to be found in a relationship with the God of the universe, but instead we seek to do things ourselves. We turn away from the love of God and the peace we can have with Him because we love our sin and autonomy. The modern equivalent image would be for us to get a drink from the sewer instead of from the tap. I encourage you to repent of your sin, turn to Him and receive His refreshing live giving water in a land that is spiritually dry. Have a blessed week!

Published November 18, 2010 New Lenox Patriot