

River Valley Notes

OASIS

Part #1: Thirsty

January 21, 2007

Question #1: "Why do we exist? How can we matter?"

Answer: River Valley Church exists to turn _____ people into _____ - _____ followers of Christ.

The loaded terms:

- **Everyday people:** _____
- **Whole-hearted followers of Christ:** _____

Question #2: "How will we go about accomplishing this mission? In what manner? In what style? What matters most to us?"

Answer: Our _____ and defining practices.

Discovering the Oasis:

1. Life is _____... very much like a desert.

Deut. 28:23-24

"The skies above will be as unyielding as bronze, and the earth beneath will be as hard as iron. The LORD will turn your rain into sand and dust, and it will pour down from the sky until you are destroyed."

(NLT)

2. The result is a nagging, persistent _____ like an unquenchable _____.

Psa. 63:1

"O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water."

(NLT)

3. The _____ is called to function like an oasis. Jesus served as an oasis for dry, depleted people. We are the present-day expression of the mission and _____ of Jesus to our world.

Part #1: Thirsty

...continued

Is. 55:1-2

"Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink—even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk—it's all free! Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen, and I will tell you where to get food that is good for the soul!"

(NLT)

John 7:37-38

On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "If you are thirsty, come to me! If you believe in me, come and drink! For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living water will flow out from within."

(NLT)

Matt. 11:28-30

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light."

(NLT)

John 20:21

He spoke to them again and said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

(NLT)

4. We become an oasis church as we collectively _____ & _____ a shared set of core values & defining practices.

1Cor. 1:10-13

Now, dear brothers and sisters, I appeal to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so there won't be divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your arguments, dear brothers and sisters. Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow only Christ." Can Christ be divided into pieces? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul?"

(NLT)