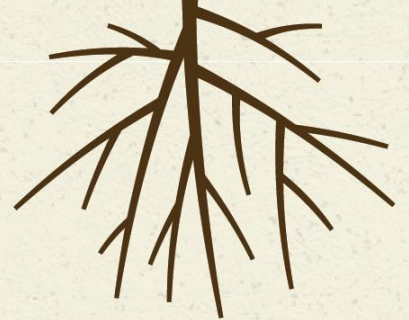


SOUTH
SHORE
community church

GROWTH

nourished in intimacy





River Dwellers:

- (filled at 19; 'it will pass')
- But, how do you stay there? (continuous renewal)
- John 7:37-38, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."



River Dwellers:

- First, if we are going to become river dwellers, we must cultivate His presence. God is always present, but we are not always aware of it.
- We often misdiagnose hunger. We try to fill a spiritual hunger with a material solution. (e.g., snack after dinner) Pay attention to the things that dull your spiritual desires. (sin; busyness; FB, etc.)



River Dwellers:

- First, if we are going to become river dwellers, we must cultivate His presence.
- Rather than dulling spiritual desire, we need to intentionally cultivate spiritual desire; we need to feed our spiritual hunger (throw logs on the fire). (seeker with tears) (Psalm 63)



River Dwellers:

- Psalm 63:1-2,6, “O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power & your glory... On my bed I will remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.” (seek; visionary encounter recalled; watch)



River Dwellers:

- First, if we are going to become river dwellers, we must cultivate His presence.
- What are the things that feed your spiritual hunger? (e.g., reading classics; fresh worship; silence – longing, Fr Robert)



River Dwellers:

- First, if we are going to become river dwellers, we must cultivate His presence.
- I don't want to just do devotions. I want to live in His presence. I don't want to pray, then go to work. I want be with God in prayer, and then be with God in work. I want to live in the river of His presence always. (so sensitive – feel the water dripping vs. wandering to woods)



River Dwellers:

- Second, if we are going to become river dwellers, we become sensitive to the 'absence' of the Spirit.
- Ephesians 4:30, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit." (sin – stuck - book)
- 1 Thess 5:19-20, "Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt." (quench – missing, disobeying promptings)



River Dwellers:

- Second, if we are going to become river dwellers, we become sensitive to the absence of the Spirit.
- Proverbs 4:23, “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”
(guard it from hardness; shields – self protection) (Guarded heart is soft, contrite – essential for river dwelling)



River Dwellers:

- Second, if we are going to become river dwellers, we become sensitive to the absence of the Spirit.
- What does it feel like when the river starts to drip off our spirits? (e.g., relational conflict – power, defensiveness, control, withdrawal, numbing out – out of the river)



River Dwellers:

- We must learn to recognize the difference between when we are leading out of the flesh & leading out of the Spirit (frenetic energy; feel like I need to make things happen – trying to produce spiritual results with human activity; create chaos) (still center; energy that comes from the Spirit; produces peace)



River Dwellers:

- We need to live in the river of God's presence. As I dwell in His presence, my soul is connected, & being healed. As I dwell in the river, I carry His presence to everyone I encounter. (Harley rider – felt the river, never want to get out)



River Dwellers: