

## DISTURBING TREND

Recently I began to notice a disturbing trend in my life. Every time I took a vacation, I found myself constantly asking the question, “How can I do things differently when I return?” Usually, I dragged God into this enterprise and asked for his assistance. The hidden assumption was that if I could answer the question correctly, I could remake myself accordingly. The hidden hope was that if I could remake myself accordingly, I might meet this powerful, mysterious, overwhelming need that I have always felt in the interior of my soul.

During a recent vacation, I made a decision to stop asking the question and start seeking the presence of the Lord, believing that his presence, not his direction, would address the need within me. As part of this process, I took a two-day personal retreat and meditated on several passages of scripture. The first two chapters of “Cool Water For Thirsty Souls” features two of those passages, Jeremiah 2:9-13 and John 7:37-39. The final chapter works out the implications of the first two passages based on the life of Mary of Bethany, who appears in three scenes in the gospels.

This booklet is appropriate for either group or individual use. Given the origination of the study, it would be particularly appropriate for use in concert with a personal retreat. Questions for reflection and/or discussion follow each chapter.

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