

“Quenching My Spiritual Thirst”

John 4:1-21

Pastor’s Choice

Introduction:

- The Bible often draws on this common experience of thirst to illustrate the need all of us have to have a right relationship to God.
- Psalm 143:6 “I stretch out my hands to You (LORD); My soul longs for You as a parched land.”
- John 4:1-6 “Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. And He had to pass through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; and Jacob’s well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.”

The History of the Conflict Between Jews and Samaritans

10 tribes to the north (called Israel) + 2 tribes to the south (called Judah) = The Twelve Tribes of Israel

In Jesus’ day it was absolutely forbidden for a Jew to even touch a Samaritan or anything a Samaritan touched. The hatred was mutual (cf. Luke 9:51-56)

I. The Offer of Living Water

- John 4:7-8 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.” For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.
- John 4:9 Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)
- “I am a Samaritan...” • “I am a Samaritan woman...” (cf. John 4:27) • “I am a Samaritan woman who is an outcast.”
- John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”
- John 4:11-12 She said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?”

II. The Nature of Living Water

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life. “

A. Its Benefits

Benefit #1 - The living water Jesus offers is permanent. (cf. Isaiah 55:1)

Benefit #2 - The living water Jesus offers really satisfies.

- John 4:14 "...the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life. "
- When we drink from the Living Water, we experience the permanent, satisfying and overflowing abundance of...
 - a new and eternal relationship to our Creator
 - the forgiveness of sin
 - the inner peace that surpasses understanding
 - the love of God that has been shed abroad in our hearts
 - His indwelling Holy Spirit who convicts us of sin
 - His promise that he will never leave us or forsake us
 - etc. etc. etc.
- Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

B. The Source of Living Water

- John 4:14 "...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life. "
- John 7:37-38 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'
- John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

III. The Hindrances to Living Water

Hindrance #1 - Spiritual Blindness

- Spiritual blindness is the inability to see things the way God sees them.
- John 4:15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." (cf. 1 Corinthians 1-2)
- Amos 8:11 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord God, When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the Lord.

Hindrance #2 - Moral Depravity

- Moral depravity is the escalation of sin in my life that drives me farther from the Lord.
- John 4:16-17 He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband';
- John 4:18 "for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly. "
- Psalm 63:1 "O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water."
- Isaiah 53:6 "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."

- Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
cf. Acts 26:14

Hindrances #3 - Spiritual Evasion

- Spiritual evasion is the re-directing of my attention away from my personal need for Jesus Christ.
- John 4:19 The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.”
- The Samaritans believed that there was only ONE prophet to follow Moses: the Promised Messiah (Deut. 18:18).
- John 4:20 “Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”
- There is a big difference between religious matters and spiritual matters.
- 2 Corinthians 11:3 “But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”

Concluding Challenge:

- Psalm 42:1-3
“As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So my soul pants for You, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God;
When shall I come and appear before God?
My tears have been my food day and night,
While they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”
- Proverbs 25:25 “Like cold water to a weary soul, so is good news (i.e. the gospel) from a distant land.”
- John 4:14 “...whoever drinks of this water I will give him will NEVER thirst again.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:

1. What was so tragic about the Samaritan woman’s life? Do you know people like her?
2. Describe one of the greatest benefits in your life of experiencing the “living water” Christ offers.
3. Which of the three main hindrances have you personally seen most often in the unbelievers you know?
___ Spiritual Blindness - the inability to see things the way God sees them
___ Moral Depravity – the escalation of sin that drives us further from the Lord.
___ Spiritual Evasion – the re-directing of our attention away from our person need for Jesus Christ.
4. What are some of the “stumbling blocks” you have heard that keeps people from accepting the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
5. What did you get most out of this message?