

**The Story: Chapter 23**  
**Jesus' Ministry Begins**

Dr. Scott Dermer  
September 17, 2023

**DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX**  
**CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED**  
**INTO TWO SEGMENTS:**

**1) THE STORY STUDY GUIDE**  
**QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE**  
**LEADER.**

**2) THE FOLLOWING REMIX**  
**QUESTIONS:**

**Opening Discussion**

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

**Is the Christian life a struggle?**

Dr. Dermer shared with us his experience running in the St. Jude Marathon. He neglected to partake in the nourishment that was provided, and that decision caught up with him at about mile 14. He finished the race, but every step was a struggle.

In reflection, this reminded him that at times our Christian journey can feel the same way.

Have you experienced times in your walk that have felt heavy? Where staying on the path was hard, each step a struggle? As you look back, was there spiritual nourishment that you were neglecting or not taking in?

Read John 7:37-39

*On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture*

*has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this, he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

When you hear the phrase "Living Water" what first comes to mind?

Jesus spoke of this water to the Samaritan woman at the well. He said,

*"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

How do you see yourself reflected in this woman? What about her story, her need, most resonates with you?

Jesus longed to give her the gift of Living Water — The Gift of the Holy Spirit. He longs to do the same for us.

**Who is the Holy Spirit?**

Dr. Dermer reminded us that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father and the Son, dwelling within us. God's own self, His presence, abiding in our hearts.

In John 1:33 we read *"The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit."*

This man was Jesus. And in John 16:7 *Jesus tells His disciples "It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."*

Reflect on the two functions of the Holy Spirit that Dr. Dermer shared with us.

