

February 16, 2020

The Fount of Living Water

John 4:1-26

When I look back at all the years of athletics I was involved in, I can only remember one time that I almost passed out from physical exertion and dehydration. For an hour straight I ran sprints, desperately attempting to outperform a teammate for the starting position. Finally, as I was beginning to see stars and dizziness was setting in, the coach blew his whistle and I dragged myself into the locker room. I sat in silence, only the gulping of liquid life being squeezed from my water bottle could be heard. This went on for the next 30 minutes with only one thought in my mind — “I will never take water for granted again!”

At that moment, I couldn't get enough water, and I would've done anything for it. It was my greatest need. My life depended on it (or so it felt). These instances are rare for us where we live and when we live. But such was not the case for people who lived in a land that was vastly arid with much desert. Add to that the lack of water faucets, drinking fountains, bottled water, and this made fresh drinkable water a priceless commodity. Water had to come from the discovery of running streams or life giving springs of groundwater where wells could be dug. Such a find was quite literally buried treasure!

Therefore, the One who could bestow such an essential life giving treasure was Someone of great blessing and compassion. This is Someone who could see the thirst of a traveler, a wanderer, even a foreigner and bless them with a drink from their most precious resource. This Person was sustaining the life of another from their own life sustaining sources.

At the most fundamental level and the most infinite way, this is none other than God. And, there is a fundamental revelation of this in Genesis 16. Look at Genesis 16 with me, I would like for you to see something so interesting. Early in Genesis, the revelation of who God is is already taking significant form.

Genesis 16:5: "And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the LORD judge between you and me."

Hagar should have never been in Abram's arms. She was an illegitimate wife to him, brought about by Sarah's sin and Abram's complacent unbelief.

Genesis 16:6-10: "But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your maid is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight." So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence. Now the angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from and where are you going?" And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." Then the angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority." Moreover,

the angel of the LORD said to her, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count."

The LORD comes to her by a spring of water in the wilderness and He sees her affliction, He knows her need. The LORD corrects her, blesses her, and restores her. How do we know?

Genesis 16:13-14: "Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?" Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered."

Amazing! He is the God who sees, or the "God who sees me." This continues! Turn a few pages to Genesis 21:9.

Abraham and Sarah's sin continues to reap consequences. Now, Ishmael is mocking and teasing Isaac. And this time, Sarah is adamant that Hagar and Ishmael must go. Abraham gave Hagar and Ishmael a skin of water and sent them away into the wilderness. Soon they are out of water and dying. Hagar places her son in some shade away from her and weeps, for she doesn't want to see him die.

Genesis 21:17-19: "God heard the lad crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. "Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the skin with water and gave the lad a drink."

Simply amazing! This is the Lord. This is the God who sees. We begin to learn of who God is — caring for a non-Hebrew, an Egyptian, a woman, an illegitimate woman. He sees her, her greatest need, and He provides water for her. Her son and her needed life, physical life, and the water provided by God sustained their lives. But the beginnings of more are there as are further seen in Exodus.

The God who sees provides for His people Israel in the wilderness after He has just rescued them from Egyptian captivity by a mighty show of power. They are complaining of thirst, and God sweetens the bitter waters miraculously to care for their thirst. Furthermore, He leads them as Exodus 15 verse 27 says, "to twelve springs of water...and they camped there beside the waters" while the LORD told them, "I am Your healer."

Again, in Numbers 10, the Lord reveals Himself to be the God who hears and provides for the needs of His people. He brings forth abundant and streaming water to quench the thirst and sustain the life of His people. But, as we know, the people do not remain faithful to the God who provides, who gives graciously, to God their Healer and Sustainer. They turn to idolatry. Idolatry which the LORD calls empty wells, broken cisterns, where there is no life or provision.

This is why Jeremiah condemns them in Jeremiah 2:12-13, "Has a nation changed gods When they were not gods? But My people have changed their glory For that which does not profit. "Be appalled, O heavens, at this, And shudder, be very desolate," declares the LORD. "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water."

Israel's need was not just water to quench their thirst, but cleansing water of the soul for their sins. God was never only the One who sees and provides physically, but the One who sees and provides holistically. When they would take their eyes off of the Living God, their quickly parched souls would turn to others sources for spiritual quenching. This only led to the devastating reality that all idols, all other forms of worship, all other pursuits, all other things but God alone are dry and dusty deserts. Like they needed a gushing endless stream of water for their hot throats, so they needed an eternal fountain of spiritual water pouring from within their souls to constantly sustain them, cleanse them, and fix their eyes and needs to its life giving provision with endless joy.

Sadly, the people did not return their God, who calls Himself the fountain of living water — their God who sees and provides — the God who gives life physically and spiritually without end and without disappointment — the God who satisfies the deepest needs and longings of the soul.

Likewise, as I sucked down water that hot day at practice in order to satiate my thirsty body, there was another cistern I was drinking from — desperately seeking to satiate the longings of my soul. Though I was in Christ, I had wandered again to drinking from the cistern of self idolatry and worshiping at the altar of sports. And, as I would soon find out, I was more thirsty than I realized at that moment in the locker room. I needed to repent and return to my first love. I needed to plunge into the fount of living waters.

Dear friend, what about you? From what fount have you been drinking as you come here this morning? Are you quenched? Or, are you thirsty? Are you empty? Are you parched in a desert land? Are you dying in desolation? Have you felt the deep pains of soul thirst — the need for lasting satisfaction of your soul? Are you seeking for something to fix your heart and soul upon that will give life? Have you found the thing that you can drink and drink and drink and it never runs dry? Never ends? Never grows weary? Never leaves unsatisfied? Never grows old? Never leaves guilty? Are you losing hope? Wondering if you will ever find it?

Before us this morning, John reveals Jesus as the Messiah, the fount of living water, through His encounter with the Samaritan woman. And we will watch this encounter unfold in six scenes, so that...

1. You see the Lord who sees your greatest need.

2. You come to Him who came with your only remedy.
3. You drink deeply of Him who is the Fount of Living Water.

Which brings us to scene one...

I. SCENE #1 -- THE REQUIRED ROUTE (vv. 1-6)

VERSES 1-3

"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." (Jhn 4:1-3 NASB)

The ministry of the Lord had begun to move into full swing. Many were coming to Him. He wasn't directly baptizing them, but His disciples were. This had caused John the Baptist's disciples to become jealous, but it also made enough waves to get to the ears of the Pharisees. John's ministry had already become big enough and loud enough to catch their attention and get them concerned. So if the Lord's is getting bigger, their agitated gaze is shifting upon Him now. In order that the plan for His life and ministry is not disrupted by them, the Lord leaves Judea to head back to Galilee.

VERSES 4-6

"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." (Jhn 4:4-6)

But, v. 4 says something very interesting: "had to pass." We would read that and think nothing of it. Why did He have to pass through Samaria? The language makes it clear it is an obligation. There was no other option. Is that true? Is it because of an external obligation? A matter of circumstances, road ways, blockage, massive construction and traffic? There were several roads from Judea to Galilee: Seacoast, Perea, Samaria to name three.

Usually, Jews chose to avoid the Samaria path because of their uncleanness. As John later points out, Jews had no dealings with Samaritans. When most of the Northern Jews were carried away into Assyrian captivity, some of the remaining Jews began to marry and have children with the Assyrians now occupying the land. When the Jews in captivity came back, they found a mixed race progeny of Jewish Assyrians, called Samaritans. These people had also mixed elements of God's word and His worship with the pagan religion of Assyria. They worshiped God and other idols. Because of this, they removed the central place of worship from Jerusalem and the Temple, to Mount Gerizim in the northern region which became known as Samaria. And, in order to defend this practice and others, they rejected all Scripture except the first five books, the Torah, because in them Moses gave God's people the declarations of

blessing at Mount Gerizim. They mixed blood, mixed worship, mixed up Scripture, and the Jews did not want to mix with them. Devout Jews shook Samaritan dirt off their sandals!

But, the Lord had to pass through Samaria. Why? The obligation must be internal — it is the will of God. The divine plan was to go through Samaria. As we will see, God is seeking true worshipers. There was one there, even though she didn't know it yet. But the Lord who sees did.

So, He comes to Sychar — at the base of Gerizim, one mile from Jacob's well. The parcel of ground was Shechem, a special plot that the forefather Jacob had bought during his travels and had given to his beloved Joseph. Joseph's bones were carried out of Egypt in the Exodus and eventually buried at Shechem per his request. This is a place rich with history from the forefathers of God's people. Now the Lord comes there and He is exhausted from travel. He has walked roughly 20 miles in the hot sun and it is now the 6th hour — which is noon — the sun is beating down with midday heat.

He is hot, He is tired, and the language suggests He is sitting on the edge of the well for rest. The One who sustained Jacob in the desert is now sitting at Jacob's well. The One who never sleeps, slumbers, or grows weary is exhausted in the noonday sun. The One who created water and fashioned the throat is now in need of drink and is desperately parched.

But, He is right where He needs to be and is carrying out the divine plan. Though He has human needs, He is the Lord who sees the need of another now approaching Him.

Which brings about...

II. SCENE #2 -- THE ALARMING ASSERTION (vv. 7-10)

VERSES 7-9

"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. 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.)" (Jhn 4:7-9 NASB)

A Samaritan woman approaches to draw from the well. Coming at the time and by herself seems to indicate that she was an outcast because of her moral choices. That is confirmed later in verse 18. Women usually gathered water for the day together, in a group. And, they did this early in the morning or later in the afternoon when it wasn't scorching hot and more work. But she is alone, and she is at the well at noon. Jesus doesn't have the bucket and rope to draw water. And so He says to her, "Give Me a drink." Why?

Well, John notes that the disciples have been away already to buy food for them in the city a mile away. They can't draw for Him. This was common for disciples of a rabbi — it was

also common work to get food. They could do business with Samaritans but that was about it. But that is not the only reason He asks her. There is more going on!

The woman is instantly alarmed! And she states why in a question — How is it that although you are a Jew you are asking from me for something to drink when I am a Samaritan woman? Here, John clues us in that Jews had no association with Samaritans. This is a shocking and alarming encounter.

We need to feel the full force of John's statement. This is more shocking and taboo than we understand. Men and women didn't associate in public. Jews and Samaritans didn't associate. A Jewish man did not associate with a Samaritan woman.

A Jewish man who is a Rabbi didn't associate with a Samaritan woman who is a known adulterer. A Rabbi didn't associate with a Samaritan adulterer and ask her for something to drink from her utensils. A Jewish man who is a Rabbi didn't associate with a Samaritan woman who is an adulterer, ask her for a drink from her utensils, and drink from it! Unthinkable!

It was shocking that this Jesus would talk and dine with tax collectors and sinners, but this was career ending. As verse 27 indicates, the disciples came back, saw what was taking place, and were dumbfounded. By human estimation, the Lord's reputation, and perhaps His ceremonial cleanliness, is ruined.

But this couldn't be further from the truth — the Son of God loves His neighbor, loves His enemies — He is not defiled by anything but comes to purify the defiled. She is alarmed by the assertion of this Jewish Rabbi, "Give Me a drink!" But, the more alarming assertion was about to come.

VERSE 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.'"
(Jhn 4:10 NASB)

The way He says this is, "If you had known up to this point the gift of God and who was asking you for a drink (but you don't), it would have been you that had done the asking!"

Why?! He says, "He would have given you living water." And, there is certainty in this statement, it is not hypothetical. The words mean "fresh moving streams" as opposed to stagnant foul streams. Streams that sustain life and are fresh and constantly flowing, not water drying up replete with disease and death. This is the kind of stream God brought forth from the rock in Numbers 20:8-11 that continuously sustained the needs of Israel.

But she doesn't see that the gift He speaks of is the salvation, the life, that the One who sees can provide. She doesn't understand that the living waters are a permanent supply of

eternal life flowing from the Messiah Himself. Like so many before her, and those who would come after, she didn't see the clues and the cues being put in front of her.

Which led to...

III. SCENE #3 -- THE GREATER GEYSER (vv. 11-14)

VERSES 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?" (Jhn 4:11-12NASB)

She is perplexed because like Nicodemus and others, she didn't hear Jesus' words as drawing her back to Scripture. Jesus isn't being mysterious, coy, mystical, or allegorical. Jesus is being biblical. If she would have heard His words as the Old Testament prophecies, themes, and promises they were — she would not have asked her next questions.

She wonders about literal water, and Jesus did not have a bucket, rope, or anything. The well was more than 100ft deep in that day — it was a ground water sourced well or cistern that flowed so abundantly it was also considered a fount, as we see both Greek words used in this section. But nonetheless she has no idea how He will draw out this living water. And, He will draw it out, in a way she didn't expect or immediately appreciate.

Nonetheless, she asks, "How can you get it?" And she continues by essentially asking, "What could be better than this resource here and how it came to us?" So ironically, she asserts the truth without knowing it! "You are greater than Jacob?" How close belief and unbelief are to one another. Remove the question mark and replace it with an exclamation point!

The One before her is greater than Jacob — He is the One who wrestled with Him and prevailed, the One who blessed Him, and the One who transformed him from a deceiver to follower of God. He is the One who became Jacob's wellspring for his soul!

According to fabricated Samaritan history, Jacob gave this well to the Samaritans, even drank and watered cattle at it — but there is no OT support for that. The Lord cuts past her assertion to the greater point at hand.

VERSES 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." (Jhn 4:13-14)

He essentially says, "Everyone who drinks from this water will become thirsty again. You will always need to come back, and it will never fully quench you or create in you lasting

satisfaction. But, whoever at any time drinks the water that I will give him shall never thirst!" Jesus says this emphatically — shall never thirst forever and ever and ever and to all eternity!

The way this is said, with the exact language and grammar, I cannot pass up! He says that everyone who takes gulps and gulps and necessary drink after drink of this well thirsts again and again and again. But whoever takes one sip, one single draught, of My water shall never ever ever thirst!

Friends, there is more life and more sustenance and more soul satisfaction in one drop of Jesus Christ and the salvation He provides in Himself than the whole Pacific Ocean of worldly fountains and its pursuits, pleasures, and peace offerings!

Why? Look at what the Lord says...

VERSE 14b

"but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." (Jhn 4:14b)

The Lord implants in you a well springing, bubbling up, perpetually flowing refreshing spiritual water of eternal life. Drinking from the Lord gives eternal life and continues to sustain life forever.

Listen to what her ears should have been hearing at that moment:

Isaiah 12:1-3: "Then you will say on that day, "I will give thanks to You, O LORD; For although You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, And You comfort me. "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation." Therefore you will joyously draw water From the springs of salvation."

Isaiah 44:1-3: ""But now listen, O Jacob, My servant, And Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you, 'Do not fear, O Jacob My servant; And you Jeshurun whom I have chosen. 'For I will pour out water on the thirsty land And streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring And My blessing on your descendants;"

Isaiah 55:1-3: "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost. "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance. "Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, According to the faithful mercies shown to David."

In those passages, the LORD Himself is the water and the fount that gives life sustaining provision. God is the soul cleansing water of salvation. As David said, the LORD is his portion and his delight forever. The soul finds its created purpose and life's satisfaction in drinking deeply of the Lord, receiving the salvation and the life He provides.

But, like the woman, we miss the provision available to us because we don't often realize our greatest need. Which brings us to...

IV. SCENE #4 -- THE NEGLECTED NEED (vv. 15-18)

VERSE 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." (Jhn 4:15 NASB)

The Samaritan woman is still not hearing the Lord. She is only thinking in terms of what is right in front of her. She is only thinking about the daily needs that seem the greatest to her. The things that cause her the greatest heartache and the most trouble. The things that if remedied would make her life so much easier or so she thinks.

The idea of the last phrase is so that I will not need to keep coming all the way here to draw again and again and again. In other words, "Make my life easier, Sir! Do what I need so I will be satisfied the way I think I need it!" She doesn't want the shame of being the outcast. She doesn't want to risk the watching eyes of those who know her lifestyle. Whatever ways her current condition can be remedied, she will take it. But, this is completely the wrong purpose for wanting the Living Water, and she will not receive it this way!

The Lord who Sees is the One who knows her true needs, and so in compassion He exposes them to her.

VERSE 16

"He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." (Jhn 4:16)

Was the Lord concerned about what it looked like to be talking with a woman? Maybe some bad situation that could occur? Or maybe He wanted the husband to hear? No, He was driving her to see her real need, confess it, and repent of it. He wanted her to see where she had really been going to draw water — for her soul. He is on a mission to open her eyes to the broken cistern she frequently attended for life.

This is where she thought she could be satisfied, this was where she sought joy and peace, hope and comfort. This is where she was drinking for a purpose. *What gives us life and sustenance is what we truly worship!* And Jesus is now drawing that out of her — without a rope or bucket — but by His sovereign grace, because all that the Father draws to Him come to Him.

VERSES 17-18

"The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." (Jhn 4:17-18)

Was this true? Yes, we see the Lord's response, "You have correctly said..." But the Lord isn't really agreeing with her in lighthearted fashion. He is actually pressing down upon her heart piercing conviction. How do we know? Because of the wordplay that is taking place in the Greek. The Greek word for husband is "aner" and the word for man is "aner." So what is this woman doing?

She is purposely being too literal. She is selectively hearing. Jesus says, "Get your husband, *aner*." And, she knows what He means, but she decides to get technical in order to slip out from under it — she thinks, "Hmm, I don't have a husband *aner*, but I have a man *aner*. He won't know the difference, and I am not technically lying." And thus says, "I don't have a husband." But, there is one fatal mistake, she is speaking with the Lord who sees.

It's like your kid coming home too late and quickly getting into bed. You heard, and you know. The next morning you ask them, "Did you make the curfew last night?" And they say, "I didn't make the curfew, you made it." Ahh, tricky. To this you say, "You're right, you didn't create it, we did, and now we are going to uncreate you because you didn't get home within it!" Busted!

The Lord doesn't let her off the hook! He reveals to her that she has been going from man to man as an adulterer seeking purpose, satisfaction, and meaning. Her soul could not quench its thirst and again she is with a man and it is no different. Like I had turned to the idol of self worship at the altar of sports, so she had turned to that same idol at the altar of relationship.

The Lord is revealing her greatest need and it is spiritual. The water He was providing her was spiritual and the perfect remedy for her idolatry and worship problem. The serial relationships were symptomatic of a soul thirst that well water cannot quench. Her soul was made to worship, and she needed to worship the true One.

Praise God, the Lord who Sees is the One who sees your desperate condition, your many many sins, your idolatry and false worship, but also your great need and the perfect remedy!

Which brings us to...

V. SCENE #5 -- THE SOLITARY SOLUTION (vv. 19-24)

VERSES 19-20

"The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." (Jhn 4:19-20 NASB)

She says at this point, "I perceive you have prophetic qualities!" That's good detective work! "I perceive You are a prophet, You know things, You must know truth, know God, and know proper worship." Seeing this she brings a worship question into the dialogue. This might strike us as strange. Is she redirecting the conversation? Is she trying to make an abrupt U-turn, an evasive maneuver?

No! This conversation has gone exactly where the Lord wanted it to go. It was always about worship. As with Hagar and with Israel, God's physical sustenance was always to drive them to the spiritual sustenance. The common graces were to drive them to worship the God of special grace. Mankind drinks God's good water for their bodies, and at the same time, refuses to drink the good God for their soul.

And thus, because of her guilt, she is driven to assert that she knows God and that her worship pleases Him. She is not totally godless but she is worshiper. But, Jesus exposes once again that the very thing she rests upon as the solution is no solution at all. Her worship is deficient and a facade, but it is worship that she needs.

VERSES 21-24

"Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (Jhn 4:21-24)

It is all about true worship. We were made to worship. But notice, there is no middle ground — you either know or don't know. You are either in the truth or in error. You either know the One true God as He has revealed or you are totally off and making Him up. The Samaritans had neglected God's truth and made up external worship practices. And that cannot and will never satisfy the soul. False religion looks like a crystal clear spring on the outside, but is potent poison as it goes down. Feeling this without acknowledging it, the woman had sought other cisterns to quench her. But that isn't the answer either!

True worship is the answer, and this is mandatory! You must worship in spirit and truth. The language binds these together but with distinction. You must worship God in spirit — from pure motives of the heart (internally). You must worship Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. It must be whole being worship, starting from within you. It must be your love and desire to drink of God in God-exalting worship.

But that is not all. You don't get to let that love and desire determine how you want to do that anyway you like. You must worship Him in truth — from the Word as He has revealed Himself and how He has demanded worship. God sets the boundaries, the details, and the commands for how He will be worshiped.

We do not get to make this up! We cannot deal with our sin and our souls with made up, innovated worship. We cannot come to God as we like to think of Him and as we would like to worship or however makes us feel good. To do anything other than what the truth dictates is to replace the Fount of Living Water once again with another cistern, no matter how closely it may look like the real One, even if undetectable to the naked eye. This can be so subtle!

One preacher said, "The difference between a man-centered gospel and a God-glorifying gospel is where you put God. If God is merely the giver of a great gift who fades into the background when the gift is received, then you have a man-centered gospel. But if God is the prime reality which makes the gift magnificent, then you have a God-exalting gospel!" And the same is true of worship holistically! God in Christ is the Fount and the Living Water itself.

He does not need our worship! We need to worship Him! He does not need us to bring our water in our pitchers and pour it into His well saying, "There you go God be filled, receive my worship." But we need to come to His well with our pitchers taking desperate scoops with joy and drinking saying, "Praise you God! You satisfy! You sustain me! Nothing else can, only You!"

As John Piper has said, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." Or, as he slightly changed the point of the Westminster confession of faith: "What is the chief end of man? To glorify God by enjoying Him forever."

Do you see how this is the solution to the Samaritan woman's problem? She is worshiping not really at Gerizim, but at the altar of men, self-pleasure, self worth. Her worship is conducted through relationships with men and what they provide for her.

But it is worship that is the solution — for she like us was made to worship. The solution is worship in spirit and truth — allowing her soul to drink of God wholly and really. Why?

Because, knowing and worshiping the true and living God is the act of drinking from the living waters that satisfy the soul above all else. You drink from the Living Waters when you worship the Living God in spirit and true. You are coming to Him to gulp from Him as the Almighty Sustainer, Healer, and Savior of your soul, and that exalts Him as supreme.

Would she believe this coming from a Jewish Rabbi she didn't know until that day? This brings us finally to...

VI. SCENE #6 -- THE MANIFEST MESSIAH (vv. 25-26)

VERSE 25

"The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." (Jhn 4:25)

Oh, her bad theology is still getting in the way. The rituals and habits of her mind and life are impossible for a mere woman or man to break. For the Samaritans, the Messiah wouldn't be a Davidic King. He wouldn't be what she saw sitting next to her. According to their truncated theology based only on the Torah, He would be a Restorer, a Teacher, a Lawgiver, and a Prophet like Moses as seen in Deuteronomy. Ironically, Jesus had just fulfilled all four of those roles. He came to expose the Law to her, proclaim truth to her, teach her, and restore her as a true worshiper.

But, she says to him, "I know...He will report, proclaim, interpret all things, everything we need. He will lead us and guide us to salvation and true worship. He will proclaim to us the path to be restored to God and grant us hearts to follow Him and worship Him!"

VERSE 26

"Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." (Jhn 4:26 NASB)

Jesus says, "I who speak...I am he — the very One who is talking to you! I am revealing these things to you! I am revealing Myself to you."

He says, "I am the Covenant God of Your Fathers. I am the Messiah promised by Moses. I am the Fount of Living Waters. I am the Healer and Forgiver of sin. I am the Lord who Sees you and your need. I am the Joy of the nations, not just Israel. I am the God in flesh before you now."

The One who wrestled with Jacob because His love was set on him, would wrestle with this poor Samaritan outcast because His love was also set on her.

If you are His, He will not allow you to destroy yourself at wells that reek of waste and refuse! Rather, He will come to you, rescue you, pump your sin rotted soul, and nurse you back to life with the greater geyser of His living water.

CONCLUSION

I pray that you have seen that Jesus is the Messiah, the Fount of Living Water, through His encounter with the Samaritan woman.

1. Jesus had a required route — and you are here this morning, sitting at the well of the Word hearing this by the same providence and sovereignty of God. You thought you came, but He brought you here and came to You.

2. Jesus gave this woman an alarming assertion — this Jesus is no respecter of persons, not partial to any kind of people, or certain kinds of people. The God who saw the illegitimate Egyptian Hagar, saw the solitary Samaritan woman. It doesn't matter who you are, where you have come from, or where you stand in worldly categories.
3. Jesus proclaimed to her a greater geyser — He is still the Fount of Living Water to you this day to quench the need of your soul. You will not find a cistern more supplied or water more satisfying than Him. John Calvin said, "Whoever is not satisfied with Christ alone, strives after something beyond absolute perfection."
4. Jesus showed her the neglected need — and this Jesus tells you in His word that all sin and fall short of His glory, sin separates you from God, in sin you are cut off from the blessings of His people. You cannot come to Him seeking what you want Him to supply. You come to Him with the utter brokenness of a sin sickened and destitute soul in desperate need to new life today, tomorrow, and forever more.
5. Jesus revealed the only solution to her — it is no different today, we have a worship problem, we make and worship idols of our own liking, but only drinking deeply of God in true heart engaged worship satisfies. Where do you go for comfort in sadness? Peace in anxiety? Security in fear? Joy in boredom? Hope in doubt? Purpose in emptiness? To that which you go and drink from is what you truly worship.
6. Jesus is the manifest Messiah — and He is that Messiah welcoming all who will come to Him this day and turn from their idols, sins, and empty cisterns of spiritual water. Friends, please don't leave without drink. Do not find yourself in the lake burning with fire, crying out that someone in heaven might dip their finger in the fount to let a single drop fall upon your tongue to cool it. Do not rue this day forever, hopelessly crying out, "Oh that I would've plunged myself into those living waters!"

He is the Lord who sees your greatest need, Him who came with your only remedy, the only Fount of Living Water. Dear brothers and sisters, His precious sheep, He will always be the Fount from which we must drink every day. So often we act like the dirty Gentile pigs that we were, gorging ourselves in spiritual swamps on all manner of worldly lusts edible and inedible. But, our Good Shepherd who Sees comes to us and reminds us, "I have transformed you, you are My little lamb now. Feast upon these green pastures, lie down and drink deeply of these still waters. My beloved, restore your soul in Me."

My friends, build your life and your home around this Fount. Drink daily in worship of Him. Lead your loved ones to the edge of His well and compel them to satiate their souls. All eternity will be no different.

Revelation 22:1-2: "Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street."

Oh, that our Lord will come that we may soon be there! But, until that great day, we fix our souls to God in Christ through the Spirit. Let the word of our Great God, the God who Sees, the Fount of Living Water call you this morning and forever with His concluding call:

Revelation 22:17: "The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost."