

“You Could Use a Drink” - John 4:1-26

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to John 4:1-14

Today's title is “You could use a drink” and I want you to think back to when you were watching an old spaghetti western. A wounded weary traveler has been walking through the desert and comes into the center of what looks like a deserted town. The only place open is the local tavern where he goes in and the few people there turn to look at him and someone says, “Boy, it looks like you could use a drink!” Now I don't want you running out of here and telling everyone that Pastor Jed is telling everyone about people going into bars and drinking but to paint a picture of our story today. But before we jump into it lets remind ourselves why John wrote this book...

John 20:30-31

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

That is the purpose of the book, that the reader would believe. That is, to place their faith and trust in the finished work of Christ and be “Born Again”. Jesus said it would be like this...

John 3:7-8

“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

We are going to get many lessons on the Holy Spirit’s work in the believer in this book and last time we saw that one that has committed himself to Christ will be able to say...

John 3:20

He must increase, but I must decrease.

So today we will see the importance of this filling of the Holy Spirit in our life to give us purpose and meaning. So, let’s set the context...

John 4:1-4

Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John 2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), 3 He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. 4 But He needed to go through Samaria.

John has pointed out that at the beginning of His ministry Jesus went to Jerusalem with His disciples and stayed in Judea baptizing and teaching. We then saw that John the Baptist was approached by the Jewish leadership that was trying to cause division and discord. Word got back to Jesus, and he is now going to take His ministry to Galilee. Notice it says that He “needed” to go through Samaria. Before we get into the implications about that we need to deal with the there...

John 5-6a

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Now Jacob’s well was there.

Genesis 33:18-20

Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city. And he bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem’s father, for one hundred pieces of money. Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel.

Joshua 24:32

The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.

As you can see from this photo that there is a church in the modern city of Nablus that has Jacob's well inside. This site is under the occupation of the so-called Palestinians and is off-limits to Israelis. You can thank President Clinton for that one.

John 4:6b

Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

The sixth hour is noon. The hottest part of the day there. But notice that Jesus is weary. He is God the Son, but He is also the Son of Man. In His humanity He experienced everything we do. He knows when you are tired and weary and can provide help to us.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Now in this moment Jesus is going to use a human need to share a Spiritual truth...

Jesus and the Woman

John 4:7-14

Now first who are the Samaritans?

2 Kings 17:24

Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.

After the captivity of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, these that were repatriated into the area had interbred with native Jews that were left there and created the Samaritans. When the Jews came back from the Babylonian captivity, they would have nothing to do with them and considered them “Half-Breeds”. They had built their own temple of Mount Garizim and were hated by the Jewish people by the time of Christ. This is why she answers Jesus this way.

Now what is living water? In Judea in the time of Christ there were three places you could get water. First is a cistern which is a big hole dug out to collect the rainfall. This water would easily become stagnate. There are wells that are dug out to get ground water which was the next best thing but a chore to get. Then there was living water or spring water. This is water that was continually running and the healthiest and best water of all. But Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit as we know later John will tell us this story and what it means...

John 7:37-39

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

But just like Nicodemus she did not understand this...

The Woman and Jesus

John 4:15-26

Wow, Jesus has just completely revealed Himself to her! A few things here.

First, we find out what kind of woman this is. Nobody came and got water at noon. You came in the morning. But that is the time when the whole town would come to get its water so it would seem she is a bit of a recluse. Jesus draws this out by asking about her husband. Jesus points out that she has had 5 failed marriages and gave up on the sixth. It's not that Jesus is trying to point out her sin as much as her trying to find satisfaction in her relationships with others and not with God.

That brings up the second point. Jesus shows her how one can have a relationship with God by the way that one will interact with Him. He tells her this in what God desires.

This brings us to the third point, That He is the way to this relationship!

The first thing one must discover is what do you find your purpose in? The false gods of the Jews were represented in the things that we worship today. Baal was the god of prosperity. Does your life revolve around your career? Is getting rich the main goal of your life? Then there is Asherah, the goddess of pleasure. Is it entertainment and pleasure that you seek? It

doesn't have to be sex that is an extreme. But what about sports, cars, or games? Anything that becomes a master passion of our life becomes our idol. Then there is Molech, the god of power. Is it fame or legacy that is the most important thing in your life. Having control of every situation and person in your life is a form of idolatry! This was the downfall of the Jews that led them to captivity and will lead you too unless you change your priorities.

Jeremiah 2:13

“For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

Second, we must worship God in Spirit and Truth. We need to turn away from those things that we had put our faith in and put to practice the worship that pleases Him. This comes through the Spirit of God and the Word of God.

Ephesians 5:18-21

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the

Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.

And the word...

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

It is through the Spirit of God and the Word of God that we worship the Father. And it is only through Jesus Christ!!!

John 1:16-18

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

It is through a relationship with Him that we find quenching of our Spiritual thirst and find true and real satisfaction in life. If we search anywhere else, we will find ourselves in the desert dry and thirsty. Maybe you need a drink from the well of living

water. The good news is that it always available for you to drink.
Come and be refreshed today!

Communion!