

**Text:** John 4:7-30

**Meaning:** The Samaritan Woman received living water from Christ.

**Big Idea:** Jesus gives us living water that satisfies the soul.

**Objective:** I want the hearers to be content in Christ.

**Theme:**

## **LIVING WATER**

Today we continue our series called "HE IS". Today we are in John chapter 4 where a Samaritan Woman has a life changing encounter with Jesus. This woman is more affectionately known as the Woman at the Well. She comes to Jacob's well in the middle of the day, a time when nobody would be there so that she would not be seen. She's an outcast in her town, a scandalous woman who's been with multiple men. Jesus has a divine appointment with this broken lady and invites her into a loving relationship with Him by saying, "Ask of me and I will give you living water."

### ***Living Water Illustration***

The human body is more than 50% water. This means that for an adult who weighs around 170 pounds, 100 pounds is just water weight, 70 pounds is everything else – bones, brains, tissue. So the most essential part of our daily diet is water!

An ample supply of water is an absolute necessity for the transport system in our bodies, first in digestion and then to carry the nutrients and oxygen to every cell. Water is necessary to wash the waste from our bodies and to keep our bodies clean inside and outside. Water lubricates our bodies, keeps joints slick and skin supple. It helps keep our temperature regulated so that our bodies do not get overheated, especially in summer time and during physical activity.

Without water our bodies can quickly dehydrate. Researchers tell us that just a 2% decrease of water in your body causes a 20% decrease

in mental and physical performance. Water is essential for life. Dehydration can have devastating effects on both your physical and mental health.

As important as water is for our physical well being, Jesus tells us in His Word that living water is even more important for our spiritual well being. In fact, Christ tells us that without His living water in our soul we will die spiritually. Oh, how we need Jesus!

## **READ JOHN 4:7-30**

### **How do we get living water from Christ?**

#### **1. FACE OUR EMPTINESS (VS 16-18)**

Jesus calls out this woman's sin here. It's easy to read this and think Jesus was accentuating her sin and rebuking her for it, but that's not what's happening. Jesus is addressing the thirst issue in her life, her identity, which was wrapped up in the love of other men (or at least what she felt was love). We don't know all the circumstances of these marriages. Maybe she'd been abused. Maybe one or more of these men committed adultery. Maybe she was just longing for sexual pleasure. Maybe her father never loved her so now she longed for the intimate touch of a man. The Scripture doesn't say, but what we do know is that she was now living with her boyfriend and giving away for free what should have cost that guy a lifelong commitment.

***OUR SIN COST JESUS HIS LIFE. HIS SALVATION COSTS US OURS. I MUST DIE TO MYSELF TO RECEIVE LIVING WATER.***

So, Jesus addresses this deep rooted issue in her heart. This longing for love and acceptance, and he says, "I'm the answer. Come drink deeply of my love and acceptance."

***JESUS KNOWS EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER DONE; YET HE LOVES YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN EVER IMAGINE.***

Jesus is not condemning the Woman at the Well for her sin, he is calling out the spiritual dehydration in her life. She was trying to drink of sexual pleasure and the love of men and she was more empty and dissatisfied now than she had ever been.

So many people suffer from spiritual dehydration. They are drinking deeply from the things and/or the people of this world; yet they are more thirsty and empty today than they've ever been. Only Jesus can quench the spiritual thirst in your life; only Jesus can satisfy. And when you drink of Jesus His Spirit releases a spring of life in your heart that never runs dry.

We all long for love, acceptance, and significance in this life. We all long to be loved and to know that our life has a purpose, and only Jesus can satisfy our soul with true love and give us a reason to get out of the bed in the morning.

What's your why? For the woman at the well her why was a moment of pleasure, just a few fleeting moments of fun, excitement, and happy feelings. Why do you get out of bed in the morning? Is it because you love Jesus and He loves you and you want to know Him and live out His plan for your life or is it for other reasons?

### **FILLED**

In his best selling book called, "Into Thin Air," Jon Krakauer relates the hazards that plagued some climbers as they attempted to reach the summit of Mount Everest. Andy Harris, one of the expedition leaders stayed at the peak too long and on his descent, he became in dire need of oxygen. Harris radioed the base camp and told them about his predicament. He mentioned that he had come across a cache of oxygen canisters left by the other climbers but they were all empty. The climbers who already passed the canisters on their own descent knew they were not empty, but full. They pleaded with him on the radio to make use of them but it was to no avail. Harris was

starved for oxygen but he continued to argue that the canisters were empty.

The problem was that the lack of what he needed had so disoriented his mind that though he was surrounded by something that would give him life, he continued to complain of its absence. The lack of oxygen had ravaged his capacity to recognize what was right in front of him.

Friends, what oxygen is to the body, Jesus's living water is to the soul. Some of us are dying of spiritual dehydration and we don't even know it. Jesus is offering life to us while we run around trying to satisfy our thirst. We will never be filled until we drink of the Water of life, Jesus Christ.

## **2. UNDERSTAND REAL WORSHIP (VS 20-24)**

This place called Sychar here in John is an incredibly significant place. See, this place where Jacob's well was located is the Old Testament place called Shechem. Shechem was where Jacob lived for years. It's the place where Joseph's bones are buried. It's the place where Joshua read the law of God as the Israelites were possessing the promised land and the place where he gave his final address to the Israelites saying, "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." This is the very place where it says in Genesis 12 that the Lord told Abraham, this land is your land! So, Abraham built an altar here to worship the Lord. This is a place of promise, a place of commitment, a place of worship.

Romans 4 it says that Abraham is the leading example for us in the Old Testament of justification by faith and real worship. God made a promise to Abraham, before circumcision, before the law, before the Temple, and Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.

Don't miss the significance of this! Abraham had no Bible, no Church, and no Temple. It was just He and the Lord, Abraham and the Great I

Am, and here we have just this lady and Jesus! Jesus says that is actually what real worship is, it's spirit and truth stuff! It's just me and you, he says to the woman. We worship the Lord not in a place, and not by keeping the law – we worship Him in spirit and truth. So, here we have the woman, Jesus, and a well. So too, worship is us going to the well to draw living water from Jesus every day! That's worship!

### **THE CHURCH IS NOT A BUILDING, IT IS PEOPLE FILLED WITH HIS SPIRIT**

#### **Philippians 3:3**

For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh

Every week we don't come to worship, we bring our worship! We come to lift up the name of Jesus, to invite the Holy Spirit to do a fresh work in our hearts once again, and to celebrate all that the Lord has done in the past week.

If a Sunday service is the extent of your worship then you don't understand worship! Worship is you and Jesus and drawing from the well of God's living water every day!

### **3. RECEIVE JESUS**

#### **How do you receive Christ?**

He told the Woman at the Well at the very beginning of their encounter how. He told her that if she knew who he was she would have asked him for living water, and the best part is his following statement, "and he would have given it to you."

#### **JUST ASK**

There is a well – and it has an endless supply – and this well is filled with grace, love, mercy, provision, power, wisdom, healing, and peace

– and every day we can drink deeply from this well – All you have to do is ASK!

### ***What happens when you receive Christ?***

#### **LEAVE THE JARS**

That which she had come to the well for was now secondary to the one she met at the well. She left the very thing she was carrying and received the love of Jesus.

Today, you may be carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders. Maybe it's the weight of your bad choices. Maybe it's the weight of providing for your family, the weight of a destructive lifestyle, the weight of broken relationships, the weight of lost opportunity, or the weight of failure. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Today, you can lay down your burdens, your guilt and your shame at the feet of Jesus!

#### **TELL THE WORLD**

How do we know her life was changed? We know because she was willing to publicly profess Christ as the Messiah. In fact, think about her message here. "He's told me everything I've ever done", she said. Only a person who's life has been changed is willing to share their brokenness with others.

#### **John 7:37-39**

Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive