

Title: Are You Thirsty?

Text: John 4:1-15

Would you take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the gospel of John. The Gospel of John chapter 4. Since it has been a few weeks, let me give you a quick review of where we are in our study of John. The theme of this book is: THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST. John is proving that Jesus Christ is God. So, in chapters 1 through 4, we have been looking at the different ways that Jesus makes himself known as God to different people. First of all, he revealed his true nature to John the Baptist. Secondly, he makes himself known to his disciples. Third, he makes himself known to a very religious leader named Nicodemus.

(4C) Now, today, we come to chapter 4 and this conversation that Jesus had with this Samaritan Woman. *A FASCINATING STORY - There is much for the Malena church in this conversation. That Jesus had with this Samaritan* There are notes in your bulletin. I invite you to use them as we study John chapter 4.

(Read John 4:1-15)

(Prayer)

(4C) O.K. let's look at this conversation that Jesus had with this Samaritan Woman. You know, it is wonderful to examine the ways of the Lord. It is wonderful to learn how He approached people and dealt with them. And frankly the approach that Jesus used would be a good approach for us to use in our witness.

(1D) In Vs. 7 – 9 the first thing I notice is the introduction. We always talk about how we should introduce the conversation of spiritual things. And we learn something here about the method of Jesus. There are three principles that you can apply to your life in learning how to approach people.

(1E) Number one, the reason the woman was there at the well. Why was she there? It is simple. Vs 7 says: she was there to draw water. In other words, Jesus took a simple circumstance and used that to move into a discussion of spiritual things. That is beautiful. That is so simple. We all

can do that. The woman just came to draw water and Jesus used the opportunity, the circumstance at hand.

(2E) The second thing I notice is the request of Jesus. Jesus said to her, Vs 7: “Give me a drink.”

Now, that is a different approach. The disciples had gone into Sychar to get some hamburgers at McDonalds. And Jesus is alone at the well with this woman. And he says to her: “Give me a drink.” Can you see what is happening? Jesus sought this woman’s help. And I thought about the many times that I have witnessed and I have tried to help the person that I was witnessing to. But, the method of Jesus was: “what can you do to help me?”

Interesting, isn’t it? “Give me a drink.” I am thirsty. And this was so uncommon. A man in that day and age would never have ask a woman for a drink. No Way! And so Jesus did something that was a little out of the ordinary. And ask a question that demanded her response to His need. “Give me a drink>”

(3E) The third thing I notice is the reaction of the woman in Vs 9. She said: “How is it that you, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?” The emphases is on the words, “Woman” .. “Jew” .. and “Samaritan.” You see, I am a woman and you are a man. So, why are you doing this. I am a Samaritan and you are a Jew. Which is worse. Because the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans. In fact the Jews wouldn’t even drink out off the same cup as a Samaritan or Gentile. And that is the point.

Do you understand what is happening? This woman is in shock. You are asking me for a drink. Hay! We don’t even drink out off the same cup. Are you trying to get me in trouble? ~~What is going on here?~~ This is tremendous. Three simple little points you and I can use to start a conversation about spiritual things. (1) One, use a circumstance. (2) Two: ask a question. (3) Third, watch for a reaction.

challenge
Intro second place

(2D) Now, let's come to Vs 10. As we look at this conversation, notice how Jesus challenges this woman ^{concerning} ~~as to~~ her understanding. Jesus says in Vs 10: "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you." So, he is challenging her about her understanding of basical three things.

(1E) One, concerning the gift of God. And (2E) two, concerning the one who was talking to her. You see, she didn't recognize this water as a gift from God. And she didn't recognize who was talking to her. Hay! it was the Messiah, the Son of God, who was talking to her. ^{and giving her this gift} But, she didn't know it at the time.

Many people will say at this point: "ISN'T JESUS PUSHING THINGS HERE?" Because..how can He expect this woman to know all ^{about the Messiah} ~~about the Messiah~~. ^{Dear Friends} let's remember that the Messiah was an object of belief in this Samaritan's woman's heart.

The Samaritans believed in the coming of the Messiah. This woman knew, that the Messiah, who was coming, was going to give living water. She was not ignorant of these facts. Her question was..HOW COULD JESUS DO THAT? WAS HE GREATER?

So, Jesus challenged her as to her understanding. ^{me} If you only knew the gift of God...if you only knew who was talking to you. ^{seconds} ^{are we any different?} ^{a) gift of life} ^{b) one talking to us}

(3E) Then, third, He challenges her on the availability of what He was offering. Vs 10 says.."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."

He would have given it to you. It is available to you. Just ask. Ask and you shall receive, ^{says Jesus}. ^{It is just as simple as that. We need to ask}

Now, how did she know about this ^{dear friends} Let me show you. Take your Bibles and turn to the book of Isaiah. Isaiah chapter ~~2~~ 35

You say, "Wait a minute Preacher. They didn't have printing presses in those days. So, how could this woman have known about Isaiah?"

Answer: in the life of both Jew and Samaritan much of the teaching was based upon three specific areas.

One, was the Pentehcuh. The five books of the law.

Two, was the Psalms. The book of Psalms.

And the third book that was studied from the standpoint of prophecy and the Messanic hope was the book of Isaiah.

~~And~~ ^{And} out of all the books of the O.T. the people were most familiar with Isaiah. An example of this is the story of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch. The Bible says that Philip found him reading from the book of Isaiah. That was just a simple example. But, the point is that the people knew the book of Isaiah. And it is interesting that Isaiah is the book that teaches about the living water. Here are some examples

Isa. ^{35:7} ~~12-23~~....(read)

Isa. 43:18-20..(Read)

You see, this woman knew that one day that dry land would be filled with water. For the people of God to drink forever and forever. That was a comon hope of the people.

Chapter 44 verese 1-4..(read) ..Listen, those things were precious to the Jews as well as the Samaritans. Tremendous things will hapen when the Messiah comes.

One more..Isaiah 55:1..(read)...What a blessed hope. Those people living in bondage looking forward to that hope. Everyone who is thirsty, God is going to give you water.

And dear friends, God isn't through with that theme. We find the same idea in Revelation chapter 21. The scene is the new city that God has prepared for His bride. We are the bride of Jesus. And some great things are said there about our future hope. And it takes us right back to the message of living water.

Revelation 21 verse 6 says.."And He said to me, It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omege, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost." ~~¶~~ The Bible speaks about it as being a spring. A springiving fountain. A fountain that never runs dry.

Chapter 22 verse 17 in the book of Revelation says: "And 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." WOW!! That is the message that God has throughout the Bible. O.K. let's come back to John chapter 4.

So, this Samaritan woman knew about living water. Don't sell her short. The messiah would bring living water. It was common knowledge because the people saw their circumstances as likened unto a dry, barren land that needs water. And they likened it to spiritual water. It was a very common application used by the Jews and the Samaritans.

(3D) In the third place, let's look at her confusion in verses 11 and 12. Even though she knows about living water, yet, she is still confused. Vs 11 says: "Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do you get that living water?"

She was confused over the source of the water. /Where are you going to get it? She knew the Messiah would give it. That is clear from later on in this chapter. But, at this point she wants to know where Jesus was going to get this living water. She still did not know the one to whom she was talking.

Vs. 12 indicates, however, that she is getting some idea when she says: "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are you, who gave us the well?"

It is amazing how often people say that to Jesus. I think they have a feeling down deep that he was claiming to be greater. For example: in John 8 the Pharisees ask: "Are you greater than our Father Abraham?" The Jews were always bringing that up. And of course the answer is: "YES: BEFSORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM. In other words, I have always existed. Yes, I am greater.

Dear friends, you must understand that there is a problem here in Jewish thinking.

WHY??? Because to the Jew and the Samaritan, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are the ones to whom the promise was given. The Messiah would come from their loins. And what Jesus is teaching, what the Word of God taught, and what they missed completely is the pre-existence of the Messiah. They missed it. The Messiah isn't just an earthly ruler with a Kingdom on earth. He isn't just a human being. OH! NO! He is Jehovah. He is God. He has always existed.

So, of course, He is greater than Abraham and Jacob. Because He existed before they did. That is why the Jews were so angry when they heard it. They picked up stones to stone Him for blaspheming. Why? Because they knew what he was saying. He was saying that He was God.

(4D) Now, beginning at Vs 13, Jesus gives us a little commentary on living water. Look at Verses 13 and 14. (Read Vs 13-14) Two things I want you to see.

(1E) Number one, the failure of the water from the well. The point of Jesus is very clear. And He is making it as an application. He is really trying to drive this point home. You drink of this water from the well, you will thirst again.

Now, listen, dear friends. I don't know what the inward thirst is in your life. But, I do know that in my case, even as a believer, I make a foolish error so many times. I go to well's of water to try and satisfy the inward thirst that only Jesus can fill. And I make a big mistake.

Listen dear friends, you can try and fill that hungry by reason. You can try to fill it by business in the Lord's work. You might try to fill your life with pleasure and entertainment, going places and doing things. But, something inside of you, something really eating at your heart, and you know you are missing out. Some people look like they are really on the ball, yet, inside they are not happy. They lack peace and joy with the Lord. You can tell they are up tight just by the way they talk. Upset with people. You might do something and they don't agree with it and they

get all up tight and upset. Something wrong inside. WHY? Because they are not really seeking Jesus.

It is amazing how we can substitute so many different kinds of wells. And if you are going this, the Bible says you will thirst again. You really will. The only way you will find that joy is in Christ's presence. In his presence you will find that joy and pleasure for evermore. WHY? Because God's grace never runs out. Seek him. He never runs dry. Learn of Him. Make Him the joy of your life. And He will give you the desires of your heart. Is there something wrong inside? Maybe, dear friend, you are going to the wrong well?

(2E) now, secondly, in contrast to the water in the well, notice some facts about living water.

(1F) One, living water completely satisfies. Jesus said that you will never thirst again. You will be completely satisfied. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

(2F) Two, water is a vital necessity. It is not a luxury. I am not asking you to add something to your life to give it a little more meaning because your days have been a little dull lately. NO! WAY! I am telling you that this is vital. This is necessary to your existence and your life.

Water is not a luxury. It is a necessity.

(3F) Third, living water is a universal need. Everybody needs it. And you are not excluded from that need. There isn't a man, woman, or young person here that doesn't need living water. We all must have it. And if you don't have it, you will not only thirst, you will perish forever.

(4F) Fourth, living water comes from the lord. It isn't around here, folks. It is coming down from God. God wants to give it to you. And if you are seeking it on the horizontal, you are missing the point. Because it must come from above. It comes from the Lord.

(5F) Five, it never runs out. The Bible says that there will be a well of water springing up in you.

It will never run out. The source of supply is tremendous. And it is in Jesus, according to the text. He is the spring giving fountain.

(6F) And sixth, this well of water springs up to eternal life. Hay! Let me tell you, this is great.

There is a two fold application that I want you to see.

(1G) First, for those of you who are not sure of your relationship to Christ, it you don't have the

well of Christ's living water in you, you are frankly lost. You are not saved. You are not a

Christian. Dear friends, if you don't have that assurance that if you were to die, right now, and be with God in heaven, if you don't have that assurance, Listen, this is for you. You must have that water. It is a gift from God. He will give it to you, if you ask Him. Jesus stands at the door of your life and He is knocking. If you open that door, he will come into your life and give you the water of eternal life. And he will give you that assurance that you are a child of ^{God}~~god~~.

(2G) Secondly, there is an application to Christians. And this really hit a note in my life. I hope it hits a note in your life.

Dear friends, I don't know what is going on in your life. But, I do know that a lot of Christians are really unhappy. And that is so sad. And the effects of it are all over our life. And you just can't fool people for long. And you certainly can't fool yourself.

I wonder, are we really drinking from the right well? It is so easy to get off the track and miss the fact that the water is Jesus. It is His life in us. And you can try to perform the Christian experience in your own strength and your own power. And yet, miss, Jesus, himself. OH< HOW, we need to pursue and seek the Lord in all that we do. We need to go to the well of Jesus Christ.

(5D) Finally, notice the reaction of this woman in Vs 15. This ought to be our reaction. Sir, give me this water. Man! She wanted this water. She didn't want to ever thirst again. GIVE ME THIS WATER.

I hope you feel that way. Boy, that would be tremendous if all of us felt that way. Oh, let me tell you, we all need to drink from the well of water that will never run dry. The living water – Jesus Christ.

Let's close in Prayer