

Lighthouse Bible Church

November 4th, 2012

John 4: 1 – 26 Part #1

‘Christ, the Living Water of Life’ *scripture reading Revelation 21: 6 - 8*

Stand – Read – Pray

As we have said before, as we study the book of John, John’s purpose in writing this book is, according to **John 20: 31** that **you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in His name.**

And as we come to this passage of scripture that is exactly what John does again very clear, he presents Jesus as the Christ, as the Messiah. Look at **Verse 25 – 26** the woman said to Him **‘I know that Messiah is coming, who is called Christ. When He comes He will tell us all things. Jesus said to her ‘I who speak to you am He’.**

John has told us that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, God in human form. Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother said back in **John 1: 41** about Jesus **we have found the Messiah.** Nathanael acknowledges that Jesus is the Messiah in **John 1: 49.**

Jesus, by His actions in cleansing the temple and performing signs and miracles was attesting to the fact that He was the Messiah. But now, in our passage here in Verse 26, He SAYS very clearly that that is who He is, the Messiah, the Christ.

And as the Messiah, the Son of God, God in human form, He is about to show His love to someone who, by the standards of the time, is an outcast

and would not be loved by anyone. But that is what God's love does doesn't it? Its not based on what we are but on the divine character of God's love without condition.

You remember when Nicodemus came to Jesus that Jesus showed His love for him in that He confronted him with his love for his sin and covering it up with his religious practices thinking that would get him into the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus knew the real need in Nicodemus' heart was to be born again and He loved him enough to tell him the truth about how someone is truly born again. Now, Jesus meets a woman who could not be more opposite than Nicodemus and He shows His love for her in meeting her greatest need as well.

All we know about her is what is revealed in this passage. She is a Samaritan, a woman of Samaria, and she has had difficult relationships with men. She, being a Samaritan or of mixed heritage between Jew and non-Jew, were disliked by the Jews. Not only that, as we shall see, she was probably not even liked by her own people, she was an outcast. And it was to her that He, for the first time, revealed Himself as the Messiah. Look at Verses 1 and 2

Verses 1 – 3: therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, though Jesus Himself did not baptize, He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.

You remember that Jesus and John were ministering fairly close together and more people were going to Jesus and John the Baptist said 'He must increase and I must decrease' and 'my joy is full' because my ministry is complete.

Well, news about **Jesus baptizing and making more disciples** than John came to the hearing of the Pharisees. They had apparently been watch and listening to John and Jesus and were keeping tabs on them. Remember as we saw before, even some of the Pharisees came out to John and he said ‘brewed of vipers’.

They didn’t like John and they certainly didn’t like Jesus either as we’ve seen.

To avoid a confrontation with them, because His time had not yet come, He left Judea and headed north to Galilee and would have to go through Samaria. We see several times in scripture where Jesus leaves an area to avoid conflict with the religious leaders. The more they know of Him and hear Him the more they want Him dead and because He is on God’s timetable, He avoids them until it is time to die.

Not only that but He left for another reason, look at verse 4

Verse 4: But He NEEDED to go through Samaria. He didn’t have to go through Samaria, He NEEDED to, because there was a divine appointment waiting for him with a woman by a well. Had He left any sooner or later He would have missed the appointment but He is on God’s timetable for everything, for the salvation of souls and for the giving of His own life.

Verse 5: So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

Jesus and His disciples arrive in the city of Sychar that John says **Jacob gave to his son Joseph**. You can read about that sometime in **Genesis 27: 43, 31: 38, 33: 18 – 19, 48: 22** and **Joshua 24: 32**. It also says in Verse 6

Verse 6: Now Jacob's well was there. The same well that Jacob and Joseph used is still being used in the time of Jesus. The reason being is that the well is fed by an underground spring. *Pege – paygay – rushing water phrere – frehar – well or pit.* This well was about a mile from town.

The rest of Verse 6 says **Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well and it was about the 6th hour.**

Jesus, God in human form, **wearied from His journey.** This is one of those passages that show the 100 percent humanity of Jesus. In emptying Himself and becoming a man, as **Philippians 2: 7** says, he experienced what we have, yet without sin.

He was tired, He was thirsty, He was hot and He wanted to sit down and rest; and it was **about the 6th hour**, it was around noon, the hottest part of the day. By the way, **Verse 8** says **His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food** and the indication from Verse 27 is that they had left Him quite some time ago. *Jews and Samaritans did not get along.* But you see, when someone comes to Christ, as **Galatians 3: 28** **there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave or free, male/female.**

Jesus, by divine appointment, is at the right place, at the right time, about to do God's will in revealing Himself to a Samaritan woman who would later believe, by faith, in Him. Remember that Jesus said 'I came to do the will of (whom) My Father'.

How many times do we say that? How many times are we in the right place and the right time and ready to do God's will as opposed to being where we want when we want and why we want, doing what we want and not even taking into consideration God's desire for us. Well, with His disciples

gone and Him ready for the divine appointment, look what happens in Verse 7.

Verse 7 a woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, give Me a drink’.

According to **Genesis 24: 11** the time for women to go and get water was in the evening, when it was cooler. She is coming to the well at noon, at the hottest part of the day.

The indication from many writers is, is that she was an outcast from the other women, because of her lifestyle, and did not want to be ridiculed by them so she goes out when no one else would be there, or so she thought.

So Jesus says to her at the end of Verse 7 **give Me a drink**. The reason He asked her for a drink is because He was thirsty and **Verse 11** says he **had nothing to draw with and the well was deep**. But when He asked her, it must have been a strange thing, and here is why.

Typically, men, but especially Rabbis, did not talk with women in public. One writer said that the strict Rabbis would not even talk to their own sister or wife or daughter in public for fear of losing their reputation. *Barclay on John pg 151*. Some of the Rabbis who were Pharisees were called the ‘bruised and bleeding Rabbis’ because they would cover their eyes in public so as to not look at a woman and run into walls and houses. *IBID pg 151*.

Another reasons this would have been strange to her was not only because He was male and she was female and that He was a Rabbi and she was an immoral woman, but Jews typically did not talk with Samaritans. That is why she answers Him the way she does in Verse 9

Verse 9: how is it that You, being a Jew, asks a drink from me, a Samaritan woman. For the Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

That is an understatement. There was no love loss between Jews and Samaritans that dates back centuries before the time of Christ and was still volatile in His time.

Even some Orthodox Jews today, if their children were to marry a Gentile, they would hold a funeral for them as if they were dead. There was a prejudice between the two in Christ's time and He, out of love for her, removes that barrier.

And you know what, for someone who was being shunned by her own people, being shunned by the Jews, being labeled as an outcast immoral woman and being talked about by everyone in her community, having Jesus talk with her with love and compassion must have been an incredible feeling for her.

You and I have run across people like that who want to avoid everyone because of how they look or how they act or what they say or where they live and they are always being judged by that. Their never open to the gospel because they feel they are being judged unfairly and never sense the love of Christ that a Christian is to show. Well, not so with Christ.

Notice that the Samaritan woman says **Jews have no DEALINGS** with Samaritans. That word dealings is an interesting word, it means to share or to use in common. What seemed most strange to her is that He wanted to drink out of the same, common, drinking vessel. Then look what Jesus says to her in Verse 10.

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.

Jesus said to her **if you knew the gift of God**. What is the gift of God? We saw it in **John 3: 16** for God so loved the world He what gave His only Son. What does **Romans 6: 23** says for the wages of sin is death but the **GIFT OF GOD** is what eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

So what Jesus is saying is ‘if you would have known the free gift of salvation that God offers through Me, recognizing that you needed salvation, represented by **living water, you would have asked Me and I would have given it to you**. The idea is that she didn’t know and didn’t have eternal life.

Living water all through the Old and New Testaments many times represents cleansing, purification and salvation freely given by God. You see it in **Isaiah 55: 1** and **Revelation 21: 6** ,but like Nicodemus, she didn’t understand and was still looking at things from a physical perspective, looking at physical water, not the spiritual implications. Look at her response in Verse 11.

Verse 11: the woman said to Him Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?

She still thinks He is talking about running water somewhere other than this well, because this well had still water on top that would sometimes stagnate and would need to go below the surface to the spring in order to get the good water. She says you don’t have anything to draw with, so where is this place? She says ‘if it is not here, then where is it, where is this living water? 100 foot well.

She says in **Verse 12:** **are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock.**

Do you know of something else that Jacob didn't about this well? Do you have some secret way to get to the stream of water that Jacob did, because he used this very well and his sons and his livestock. She is still thinking on a physical level and yet asks a question that then changes the conversation to a spiritual one. Look at Verses 13 – 14.

Verses 13 – 14: **Jesus answered and said to her, whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I SHALL GIVE HIM will never thirst. But the water that I SHALL GIVE HIM will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**

Jesus said 'listen, if you drink from this well to relieve your thirst, you will thirst again. But if you drink from the water of eternal life that I can provide for your thirsty soul, you soul will never thirst again. It will have an endless supply like a **fountain of water springing up** that never stops supplying physical water, so too the living water that I give never stops supplying salvation for the soul.

Isaiah 12: 2 - 3: **says behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for Jehova the Lord is my strength and song. He also has become my salvation. Then listen to this; therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

Jesus will say later in **John 7: 38:** **He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his HEART will flow rivers of living water. He said in John 6: 35: whoever believes in Me shall never thirst. Do you think she gets it yet? Look at Verse 15**

Verse 15: the woman said to Him, Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst nor come here to draw.

She is still thinking in the physical realm that may have some spiritual implications. She says I want some of this water so I don't have to walk all the way out here in the middle of the day. If it will quench my thirst, I want it.

Notice what she is saying: it is all about me. 'give ME this water' that I may not thirst' 'that I won't have so far to go'. It is all about her. And notice what Jesus does. She asks for the water but He doesn't give it to her because she doesn't fully understand the spiritual implications and she wants it only for the physical relief that it offers, not the spiritual benefit.

Jesus could have said 'O great' she wants the water of eternal life that I just told her about, another convert. No He doesn't do that and I'll tell you why. It is just like the rich young ruler of **Matthew 19: 16 – 26** who when he came to Jesus asking about eternal life, he went away unsaved, unredeemed.

There is a wonderful truth here in this verse that we need to understand for today. Just like the people in **John 2: 23** who **believed** but weren't saved because it was all about what they could get out of His miracles, this woman's desire for living waters was only for what it would do to benefit her, meet her needs.

It would have been a shallow, false conversion, false profession, based only on what that offer of living water, eternal life, would do to benefit her. It is like someone today saying 'hey, how would you like to have eternal life and

live forever in heaven' and they say 'yeah that sounds great'. Well just pray this prayer.

Or, if your marriage is bad trust Jesus and it will get better. Or, if you have health issues, trust Jesus and He will make it all go away. Or, if you are just living from paycheck to paycheck then believe in Jesus and He can give you wealth and prosperity that you have never had before. I know you have tried a lot of things but 'just try Jesus' He can fill that God shaped hole in your heart.

It is offering eternal life with an easy believism that says all you have to do is believer, pray this prayer, walk this isle, say this, do that and you're in. Those are cheap presentations of the true gospel.

Listen, a true conversion is not the recognition of a need, at least a physical one, it is more than that. Two things this woman at the well needed to understand before she could receive the living water of eternal life that only Christ can offer.

Number one, she needed to recognize that she had more than just a physical need that she wanted met, she had a spiritual need that must be met in order to have eternal life. That spiritual need is to recognize her own sin and the consequences of it and a willingness to repent of it and forsake it and follow Christ.

A true conversion isn't an I want, I want or I need, I need, it is I am a worthless sinner deserving God's righteous judgment and am truly sorry that my sin nailed Jesus to the cross, I repent and yield my life to Him totally and completely whatever that may cost me by way of comfort, or possessions or friends or whatever.

The second need that she had was to recognize who Jesus was and submit to His lordship in her life. Jesus doesn't say, 'O you like what I am offering, here you go, its all yours'. No, because He loves her, He wants to bring her to the place where she recognizes her own sin and reveals Himself to her as the only Savior from the punishment of her sin. And He does it in an incredible way, we will see that next time.

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Verse 4 - 5: Jesus *Needed* to go through Samaria
Genesis 27: 43, 31: 38, 33: 18 – 19, 48: 22
Joshua 24: 32

Verse 6, 8: Jacob’s well was there & Jesus was wearied
Philippians 2: 7, Galatians 3: 28

Verse 7: Give Me a drink
Genesis 24: 11

Verses 9 – 10: Jews have no dealings with Samaritans
John 3: 16, Romans 6: 23, Isaiah 55: 1
Revelation 21: 6

Verses 11: 14: But the water that I shall give ...
Isaiah 12: 2 – 3, John 7: 38, John 6: 35

Verse 15: Give me this water that I may not thirst
Matthew 19: 16 – 26, John 2: 23

Application for sharing the gospel

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