

## Food for thought from the Gospel of John

### # 4 – 1 Are You Thirsty for the right thing?

#### John 4:1-15

Thirst is an everyday part of life. In some parts of the world, it is a crucial situation that could become critical at any time. For others, there is an abundance of water. Yet many often forget to drink enough water. Jesus lived in a place where water was thought about very seriously. He came to a woman at Jacob's well and offered her water that she did not understand. He called it "Living Water." He said that it would satisfy a person, so that they would never thirst for anything else. A well would spring up from within and give them everlasting life.

#### John 4:1-4 The movement of Christ's ministry

Jesus found out that the Pharisees were monitoring His ministry in Judea / the Jerusalem area. Jesus was not afraid of them. But He was choosing His battles. It was not time to confront the Pharisees head-on yet. There were other goals for Jesus. He wanted to spread His ministry farther. He was heading north to Galilee. Samaria was between the two. Most Jews would go around Samaria, rather than go through it. So, they would not have said that they needed to go through Samaria. But Jesus did. It was not a mere need for the sake of traveling convenience. It was a divine appointment that would lead to changing many lives.

#### John 4:5-9 The method of reaching Samaria – A well, A woman, and the need for water.

Jesus was waiting for this woman at an important well. He made it look like she found Him. He asked her for water, but He actually had water to give her. Jesus broke social norms – a Jewish man talking to a Samaritan woman? None of that mattered. Jesus is not limited by the rules of men. In the end, Jesus will use this unlikely woman to reach her community with the best news.

#### John 4:10-15 The message of living water.

As with the woman at the well, we do not comprehend the gift that God is offering us. We also do not naturally know and appreciate who the giver is. This world is full of need and dissatisfaction – cravings and frustrations. This is a world full of promises, from men, that are not fulfilled. Jesus Christ is offering completeness and contentment to us. Some people, who do not understand, make fun of this offer. Others just avoid it. This woman did not understand. She admitted that she had no thirst for His "living water." Yet, she asked Jesus to give this

mysterious thing to her. Whatever she was offered in the past was a disappointment. But this man seemed different. She dared to ask Him to give her the living water.

Those who refuse to drink regular water are putting their lives at risk. To reject the “living water” that Christ offers is an eternally fatal mistake. This world is dry, when it comes to things like truth, love, mercy, and grace. People know something is wrong in this world. So, they try to solve the problem and satisfy the need with material things, pleasures, politics, economics, religion, education, and human philosophy, etc. Christ gives us His Word and His Spirit to show us our true need and bring us to real peace and prosperity (John 6:63; John 7:37-39).

Once you have tasted and seen that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8), you won't be going back to the broken cisterns that hold no water.

- Jeremiah 2:13; 9:23-24
- Isaiah 55:1-3; 12:2-3
- Revelation 22:17.

You don't have to understand everything completely. But, if you ask Jesus for living water, He will give it to you. If you seek Him and His gift, He will see to it that you find it. If you knock at His door, He will open up wonderful things to you (Matthew 7:7 cp. Jeremiah 33:3).