

John 4.7-14
You Will Never Thirst Again!

Aim: to be filled and satisfied with the living water, the things of eternal life.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 63.1-8

INTRODUCTION:

The other day I was in a meeting with a couple of pastors regarding the next mission trip to South Sudan that will be held in the next couple of weeks. We were going over all the necessary strategies of what they will be teaching as well as their preparations for daily living and traveling in the country. One of the things we discussed was drinking water.

I brought to his attention how the South Sudanese get their water every day. Some of you will remember this from our testimony time two years ago. But the South Sudanese get their drinking water every day from the Nile River. They have very large tanker trucks almost like the trucks you see throughout Memphis that go to each restaurant and exhume all the grease and nastiness from their grease tanks. These water trucks look very similar to these trucks in Memphis.

So every business and every public place in South Sudan has to get their water from these trucks, because there is no public water system. So each business and public place has a huge water tank usually on top of their building for these tankers to pour Nile River water into it. The water in these tanks usually lasts a few days.

But as you can imagine you can't drink the water because it is directly taken from the Nile River and put into these tanks and the water is filled with parasites, bacteria, and trash. You may even get a fish in your tank and other living things from time to time.

So you have to drink bottled water. And here was his question...how many bottles of water did you drink each day? I didn't really think of that until he asked us, but because of the dry African heat and because of the lack of a public water system we probably drank a case of water a day between the two of us.

Needless to say we were constantly thirsty and constantly drinking water. We were constantly going to the stack of bottled water and when we left our hotel we would load up with bottles of water to drink throughout the day. Water was a constant thought for us all day long, everyday for ten days.

It's amazing how much you think about water and being thirsty when your normal water supply does not exist. It really does consume your thoughts and consume your life.

Today we are back in John chapter 4 where Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus will talk to her about her thirsty life and drinking from the water that never runs dry. Imagine if you never had to be parched again!

Let's read the passage together...John 4.7-14

Title: You Will Never Thirst Again!

Aim: to be filled and satisfied with the living water, the things of eternal life.

Give Me A Drink (v.7-9)

If you remember from our last study in **John 4.1-6** it was about the sixth hour of the day around noon time when Jesus was sitting at the well in Sychar. The Middle-Eastern heat of the day was beginning to bake and Jesus was wearied from His journey. So he's sitting by this water well, that was called Jacob's well, around high noon. It was on the outskirts of the city.

The Apostle John then tells us that **there came a woman of Samaria to draw water**. Now, why did this woman come at noon **to draw water**? Why did she come at the hottest part of the day **to draw water**? Why did she bypass other wells in the city to come to this well in the countryside?

We can only imagine that perhaps she knew that no one else would be there...in that place and at that time. She would be able **to draw water** for the day when no one else would be around. Why is this important? It's important because this woman, who we will later discover, had 5 husbands. She had five husbands and the man that she had now was not her husband, but she was working on number 6.

Listen, it shouldn't take you long to think about how much shame and embarrassment she probably felt being in a small Samaritan town having 5 former husbands. How each of those former husbands had parents, brothers, sisters, cousins, and friends. I mean depending on how small or big this town of Sychar was she probably did her best to avoid the people as much as possible, because at one point in time she was related to most of them by these five marriages. That can make anyone feel a bit uneasy when they have to go out in public in this kind of culture.

So she comes **to draw water** at the hottest part of the day when no one else would be there. That's probably been her strategy for some time. But today, there is Someone there who is sitting by the well. Her ongoing strategy was no accident. Jesus' weariness was no accident. Jesus had to pass through Samaria; He had to meet and speak with her. As A.W. Pink says, "it was the constraint of sovereign grace" where He had to pass through Samaria.

This speaks even more to the providence of God in Jesus meeting this **Samaritan woman** at the exact time, in the exact place, for an exact reason. She had no intention whatsoever of meeting her Creator that day. Jesus is the One who has taken the initiative to go out of His way in order to encounter this **Samaritan woman** in this moment at this particular water well. How many of you know that it is God who always takes the initiative to encounter people where they are in life? Jesus was at the well first and Jesus speaks to her first and Jesus said to her...**Give Me a drink.**

Last time in **John 4** I talked about the prejudice nature that existed between the Jews and the **Samaritans**. The Jews hated the **Samaritans**, because they were a mixed breed. They were half Jew and half Gentile which meant to a Jew that they were wholly disgusting. But as Jesus goes to encounter this **Samaritan woman** and He speaks to her, Jesus is seeking to destroy this prejudice nature that exists against the **Samaritans** for God desires that all nations, all peoples,

and all ethnicities to come and bow down and worship Him. So in this divine and providential encounter Jesus demonstrates His love for all kinds of people in His effort to pass through **Samaria**.

But not only is there an ethnic prejudice in the hearts of the Jews, but there is also a gender prejudice in them as well. We know now that **Jews have no dealings with Samaritans**, but it was also against their custom to speak to women in public. Listen to what one commentator said regarding their Jewish traditions, “the male Jewish attitudes at the time are reflected in the following rabbinic citations: ‘One should not talk with a woman on the street, not even with his own wife, and certainly not with somebody else’s wife, because of the gossip of men,’ and ‘it is forbidden to give a woman any greeting.’” (Bruce Milne, p.83)

What Jesus does here in John chapter 4 at this well is absolutely against the traditions and manmade laws of the Jews. He’s not only with a **woman** at the well, but He actually speaks to her at the well. He says to her, “**Give Me a drink.**” Jesus submits Himself to this **Samaritan woman**, which once again was unheard of by the Jews. The Jews would never receive anything from a **Samaritan**.

But in **verse 8** John tells us that Jesus’ **disciples had gone away into the city to buy food**. Not only was Jesus with a **Samaritan** at the well, not only was Jesus with a **Samaritan woman** at the well, not only did Jesus talk to a **Samaritan woman** at the well, not only did Jesus tell her to give Him something, but even His disciples have **gone to buy food from Samaritans in the city**. It was utterly detestable for a Jew to purchase and eat anything from a **Samaritan** for they believed that to eat and drink anything from a **Samaritan** would mean that they were now defiled. They couldn’t eat of the same foods. They couldn’t drink from the same water pots. Jesus, according to the Jews, would have defiled Himself by drinking from the **water** bucket of the **Samaritan woman** and yet Jesus still tells her to **Give Him a drink**.

Matthew 15.11 “It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles a man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man.”

It's a man's sinful heart that defiles him. But in regards to Jesus nothing could ever defile Jesus, because everything that Jesus touched was made clean. He touched and raised dead people to life again. He touched the lepers and cleansed them. Nothing could defile Jesus. He made all that was defiled clean when He touched them.

But don't miss what's in **verse 8** as well. **The disciples had gone away into the city.** That meant that she was all alone with Jesus. And this meant that she was all alone with God. This is what must take place in every sinner's life. They must be alone with God. I loved what A.W. Pink said in his commentary and I want to read it to you. He said that "alone with God is where the sinner needs to get—with none between and none around him. This is one reason why the writer (himself), during the course of four pastorates, never made use of an inquiry room or penitent form. Another reason was, because he could find nothing resembling them in the Word of God. They are human inventions. No priest, no intermediary, is necessary. Bid the sinner retire by himself, and get alone with God and His Word."

She was alone with God, the Word made flesh. And the Word is speaking to her and He tells her, **Give Me a drink.** Now, no doubt Jesus is sitting by the well. He is weary and thirsty. But He's not weary to the point of forsaking the ministry of salvation. We know because of the rest of the story that there's more to this **drink** than mere earthly water. He says to her, "**Give Me a drink.**" Something that spiritually speaking she is totally incapable of doing, she cannot give Him anything. She is spiritually dry and parched and dead. She is incapable of giving the Savior anything.

But when Jesus talks to her she immediately recognizes the prejudice divide between Jews and **Samaritans.** She knows what's up. She says in **verse 9**, "**How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman? (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)**"

Her mind is no doubt fixed on the earthly here. She is thinking in regards to men and women, Jews and Samaritans, earthly water and a well. But Jesus takes her higher!

The Living Water (v.10)

“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 in His response to the **Samaritan woman** highlights her spiritual depravity. She has no idea who He is or that she should be **asking Him for living water**. She is ignorant of who Jesus is and she’s ignorant of her own desperate thirst that needs to be quenched and satisfied.

If you knew the gift of God. Isn’t this our response to all of those we so dearly love who need salvation from God? **If you only knew the gift of God.** Is this what flows from our tongues; **if you only knew the gift of God?** Is this what flows from our tongues because we are so aware of how incredible **the gift of God** is? Is this how we speak to others? **If you only knew the gift of God.**

And then there’s that word **knew** again in verse 10. It means to gain knowledge by way of your senses. It means that you have come to **know the gift of God** because you see it, you hear it, you feel it, and you live it. It is an experiential kind of knowledge. You have come **to know the gift of God** because you have examined it for yourself with all of your life. And Jesus says to her **if you only knew**, if you only would see, hear, feel, touch, taste of **the gift of God**. **If you only knew the gift of God.**

Folks, this is the kind of knowledge that God wants us to have of His **gift**. He wants us to encounter and experience and examine and enjoy and delight and **to know the gift of God**. So let me say it like this, Jesus is **God’s gift** to this woman. Jesus is **God’s gift** to the world. He is **God’s gift** to you. God has given His Son to the world, so that the world through Him might be saved from God’s wrath. So **to know Jesus** is to **know the gift of God**.

Jesus tells 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.”**

If she only **knew the gift of God**. If she **only knew who it is who said to her Give Me a drink**. If she only **knew**, she would **have asked Him and He would have given her living water**.

But what does Jesus mean by **living water**? If this is what Jesus wants to give her then what does He mean by living water? Because whatever it means she has no idea that it is **God's gift** to her and that she is in need of it. She has no **knowledge**. So what does Jesus mean by **living water**?

Living water at this point in **verse 10** is clearly a metaphor. First, biblically it is a metaphor of God Himself. If you remember in **Jeremiah 2.13** God said,

“For My people have committed two evils; They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

So **living water** first is a metaphor for God Himself. **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 God**.

But **living water** is not only God Himself, but also the spiritual blessings of God for salvation. They are His grace, His mercy, His kindness, His transforming power, His forgiveness, His redemption, and His cleansing power from sin.

And the way that Jesus uses the word **living** it means that it flows...it is **flowing water**. That gives us the imagery that this **living water**, these spiritual blessings of God are always fresh, clean, and cool. God's **gift of living water** is the **living water** of Himself and His spiritual blessings that cleanses and saves sinners and sustains them, because it never runs dry. God is the fountain of **living waters** and the **living waters** of His grace, mercy, kindness, forgiveness, redemption, and cleansing never run dry. They never run out. They are **living** and flowing because He is **living** and flowing.

And if she **knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to her, Give Me a drink, she would have asked Him, and He would have given her living water**.

This teaches us of the responsibility of man. Men, women and children are still responsible to ask for this **living water**. You and I are still to plead with God, with Jesus for His **living water**. The providence of God in Jesus having to go through Samaria does not negate the fact that this **Samaritan woman** must still ask for the **living water**.

You too must ask God, the fountain of **living water**, for His spiritual blessings in Christ. You must ask God for His grace, for His mercy, for His forgiveness, and for His cleansing. We ask because it is not something we give to God, but that God gives to us as a gift. God gifts us with Himself and with His spiritual blessings of salvation. And we are promised that we will be given this **living, flowing water** from God. Salvation that is eternal and forevermore.

So the next thing in **verse 11** is she asks God for this **living water**...right? Wrong.

She Missed It (v.11-12)

“She said to Him, ‘Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle.

The word **Sir** in **verse 11** is kurios which means lord. And this is what we see from the **Samaritan woman**. We see a gradual rising of respect for Jesus. She first calls him a **Jew** in **verse 9**. Here in **verse 11** she calls him **sir** or lord in the very common kind of way. This is not speaking to His deity. She will call him **sir/lord** again in **verses 15 and 19** and then she elevates him to **prophet** in **verse 19**.

So she says to Jesus, **“Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep.”** I’ve read that this **well** (Jacob’s well) is still there today and the **well** runs about 90 feet down. So yeah, you need a strong rope and a good bucket to retrieve this **water** from the **well**. But the **living, flowing water** that Jesus is speaking of doesn’t come from a 90 foot **well** that was dug out by Jacob the patriarch.

So if Jesus is offering some **living** flowing **water** that doesn't need to be gathered at the **well** and she's never heard of this other source of flowing **water** then she possibly sarcastically asks Jesus, **“where then do you get that living water? You are not greater than our father Jacob are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?”**

She was expecting a negative answer. Because even the great spiritual patriarch **Jacob** had to dig the **well** and fetch a pale of **water** for **himself, his sons, and his cattle**. No one had access to a **free gift** of **living** flowing **water** that took no effort to **draw** from. Surely you're not **greater than our father Jacob...are you?**

Jesus' Answer To The Thirsty Woman (v.13-14)

“Everyone who drinks of this water with thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

Jesus takes her even higher and He answers her in the affirmative. Yes I'm greater. He tells her that the people, who drink from this **well, Jacob's well, will thirst again**. Because the **water** of the world will always lead the person to need more because it never satisfies.

But Jesus' **water** is **living water**. Jesus' **water** satisfies because it is always flowing. It is always fresh. It is always available. It flows so much and it is so fresh because it is **a well of water springing up to eternal life**.

So Jesus takes her even higher in order for her to spiritually see the difference between the world's **water** and Jesus' **living water**. Jesus wants her to see that her greatest need is not physical **water** from an old well dug by an old dead man. Jesus wants her to see that her greatest need is **living water**; it is **water** that is forever **springing up to eternal life**.

So yes, I'm **greater** than **Jacob**, because **Jacob's well** is temporal and it is of this world and it was dug by a man, but my **well** and my **water** is **eternal** and it is NOT of this world. My **water** is **water** for spiritual life; it is **water** for your soul. Listen, your soul is parched more than your throat and you desperately need My **water** that can quench the **thirst** of your soul.

Ma'am...your soul is like the deer that pants for the water brooks and your soul longs for Me.

I have sovereignly and providentially ultimately come here not so you can **give me water** to drink from an earthly well, but so that I can give you **living and eternal water** to drink from the **eternal** well, from the **eternal** fountain **springing up to eternal life**.

You see, there's something that Jesus knows that this woman does not know yet. The soul in every human being is **eternal**. Therefore, the soul of every human being craves and thirsts for the **eternal**. Therefore, the soul of every human being can only be satisfied by the **eternal**.

So this is partly why sin is sin. Sin is sin because we by nature seek to satisfy our **eternal** souls with that which is not **eternal**, but the temporal and worldly. So we make for ourselves idols in this world and we crave them, we lust for them, we thirst for them, we hunger after them and we commit all kinds of sin with them. So every thought of craving and every thought of lusting and every thought of thirsting and every thought of hungering in order to satisfy our souls that is not for God is idolatry and idolatry is sin against God. You shall have no other gods before Me.

So naturally speaking we spend our lives searching and seeking and finding all kinds of things in the world in order to fill our lives, so that our souls would be satisfied. But the problem is...it is the world's **water** that we seek and the world's water that never satisfies and it always runs dry. But we keep on searching and seeking more and more things to fill our lives with, so that our souls would be satisfied even for one second. We just need something more.

What is your something more? What do you need more of in order to get that next fix?

I need more money. I need more toys. I need more love. I need more work. I need more play-time. I need more food. I need more to drink. I need more books. I need more movies. I need more comfort. I need more sleep. I need more medication. I need more, more, more.

How foolish is it to keep filling your eternal soul with something that is temporal? How foolish is it to keep filling your spiritual cravings with something that is worldly? How foolish is it to try and quench your spiritual thirst with something that is dry and parched and dead itself?

When's the last time you drank from an old cracked, dusty, and dried-up cup?

What are you quenching your soul-thirst with? Is it with **living water**? You know the spiritual blessings of God. His grace, mercy, peace, forgiveness, and joy...His salvation?

Or are you the one who is searching, seeking and trying to find everything in the world in order to satisfy your **eternal** soul's longing? And you've become a soul-junky. And you are selling yourself out every day on the lifeless and dead sinful pleasures of the world.

And what is so sad is...you're just like this woman. You've never drank from **the fountain of living water**. You've never drunk deep and long of the life giving blessings of God. You're just like this woman who keeps adding more and more to her life. She added more and more husbands to her life. What do you add to your life? We will learn next week that she had 5 husbands and was working on number six. What do you keep adding to your life, but never seem to be happy or satisfied with? Are you a soul-junky?

Jesus says whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst. That whoever there in verse 14 can be you today. You can be **the whoever drinks of the water that Jesus gives and never thirst again!!!** But you must drink!

When Jesus says you will never thirst again; Jesus doesn't mean that your soul stops needing to drink. What Jesus means is that once you **drink of His living water** you will find that His grace, mercy and forgiveness...His salvation is eternal. Your soul will never have to thirst again, because His water is living/flowing and springing up to eternal life. His **water** will keep on replenishing and quenching your soul's **thirst**.

So today Jesus invites you to come and **drink of His living water**. He invites you to plunge your soul into **the fountain of living water** that satisfies. And when you take the plunge into His fountain your soul **will never thirst again**. Your soul will never be malnourished again. It will always and forever drink of **His eternal and living water**. It's like a **spring** that keeps on flowing for all **eternity**.

But for those who do not drink and refuse to drink of His **living water**. You will die and your eternal soul will perish forever in hell. Can you imagine living for all eternity in a place where your thirst is never quenched? Not even on that which is worldly? Can you imagine living under the hand of God's wrath and never having your soul satisfied again?

You have before you today, Jesus' **living water**. Plunge yourself into His **water**. Drink of His grace today. Drink of His mercy today. Drink of His forgiveness today. Drink of His joy today. Drink of His pleasures today. Drink of His blessings today.

Turn away from the world's **waters** and find rest for your soul. It's been searching and seeking for far too long...you have eternal life before you today. Drink deep and drink now!