

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THIRSTY?

John 4:5-15 Text vs. 15 *“The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”*”

A small boy was sent to bed by his father who five minutes later said"Da-ad...." "What?" "I'm thirsty. Can you bring me a drink of water?" "No. You had your chance. Lights out!" Five minutes later: "Da-aaaad....." "WHAT?" "I'm THIRSTY. Can I have a drink of water?" "I told you NO! If you ask again, I'll have to spank you!" Five minutes later....."Daaaa-aaaad....." "WHAT!" "When you come in to spank me, can you bring me a drink of water?" That little boy was thirsty!

And so was Jesus in our lesson this morning. Jesus and His disciples were going to Galilee straight North from Jerusalem. But they had to pass through Sychar. Sychar was halfway to Galilee and is only mentioned once in the Bible. But there was a problem. No Jew travelled through Samaria unless he had to. Those Jews in the northern mountains of Samaria were half Jew and half Gentile. The southern Jews considered Samaritans half-breeds. When Assyrians from the East conquered Samaria they brought their worship of idols with them, and they began to inter-marry among the Samaritans. But Jesus and His disciples were thirsty and hungry, so they made Sychar a half-way stopover. Jesus stayed at a well to rest. The disciples went on into the village to get food.

Now a woman was at the well. She was shocked when Jesus said to her, *“Will you give me a drink?”* Men didn't speak to women in public. Especially Jews to Samaritans. It just didn't happen! Samaritans and Jews never talked to one another. It was high noon. Blazing hot. Just like it can get here in Everglades City. This Samaritan woman had come to get water from *Jacob's Well* which had been dug by the grandson of Abraham, the father of the Jews making it have great significance! But the fact she came at noon was odd. Most people avoided heavy labor at that time of day because of the heat. So, Jesus started the conversation. He simply asked her for a drink of water. It upset her. How could He, a Jew, ask a Samaritan woman for a drink of water? *“You are a Jew. I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?”* Jesus quickly took the conversation in a different direction.

Has that ever happened to you? You found yourself in a conversation with someone when it became awkward? You were asked a question and you didn't know quite how to answer. You weren't sure if you had been rude, or what? That's when Jesus said, *“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”* That puzzled her. What's He talking about? What does He mean *He would have given me water? Living water?* *“Sir, you have nothing to draw water with. And the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”* Good! He had aroused her interest.

So, He told her the water she was after at the well would never satisfy her thirst. That made her wonder where the conversation was going? She couldn't see what this strange man could do for her. He didn't have any way to draw water. She didn't think He was greater than Jacob who dug the well. That's when Jesus said, *“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. (meaning the well water) But whoever drinks the water that I will give, will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*

Jesus didn't say *He* was the *living water*. He said, He would *give* living water to her, and when she received it, she would never thirst again. That's the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It blesses believers. It brings them to life. It brings them into the light of the world. What Jesus was saying was, *what I have for you, you're not going to find in this well*. He knew she was fighting something within herself. It was obvious! Then she said, *“Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”* She was getting close! Jesus knew what she was struggling with. He knew her pain. It was time to bring her healing.

And you know, healing *doesn't* come without pain. The healing of sin can't come until you *admit it*. Until you say you, *“No more!”* No more needles. No more pills. No more flings with someone you shouldn't. No more lies. No more deception. Jesus said to her, *“Go, call your husband, and come here. The woman answered, ‘I have no husband. Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, I have no husband. For you have had five husbands. And the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.’”* What's happening is called *purging your soul*. It's tough!

Anyone who has ever been through spiritual *purging* knows exactly what it's about. It's part of the spiritual growth process in your Christian walk. It's when things that are not Christ-like must be removed from your life to bring about your spiritual maturity. It can be emotionally painful. Sometimes it comes with immense pressure, like when you run your car through a carwash and you're still inside. You see huge amounts of water, pressure washing the dirt off and your windshield suddenly becomes clean! You can see through it, clearly! That's when you get a *green light* to drive on! Your car is clean!

When God runs you through His cleansing process, things will become clearer to you. It may be uncomfortable. If it's pride, you're going to run into prideful situations that make you feel uncomfortable. If you've been thinking negative thoughts, He'll remind you that you need to clean them up. If you're doing something you shouldn't be doing, having thoughts you shouldn't, He'll show you how to change. The list can go on. It's very personal. It's between you and God!

And if it's not cleaned up, as the Gospel song puts it, *washed whiter than snow*, then it can be very dangerous for you spiritually. You definitely won't get a *green light!* Unchecked sin can destroy your witness. It can make you *non-effective* for God. So, let God work *in* you, and *for* you. Once He shows you your problem areas, the next step is for you to pray and confess where you stand with God. It's called *repentance*. It isn't easy. But it must be done!

And that's the way it was with the woman at the well! The flood gates of her soul were opened when Jesus told her the truth about herself. For whatever reason, she'd had five different husbands. And the man she was living with was *not* her husband. Yes, it's hard to know about people. It's hard to know the deep truth about them. There are surface issues where you see the ugliness. The dysfunction. The sin. But you don't really see deep down as to *the why*. You don't know *why* they are the way they *are*. But reasons never justify actions. Sometimes reasons help explain the person and will help you gain some understanding. But, when people try to justify their actions, it doesn't make them right. It just causes more hurt. More resentment. More mistrust. The woman at the well thought Jesus was a prophet because He had brought her to her decision time. *"Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."* And Jesus said, *"I who speak to you, am He."*

Then His disciples came back and wondered why He was talking with a Samaritan woman. But no one asked. What Jesus had come to the well for was to heal her broken heart. He had brought her the *living water* which gave her true life. And *you* can have that *living water* to help you live the abundant life in this world and to worship God with the power of His Holy Spirit. You need to be like that woman at the well. You need to stay long enough in the presence of God to allow Him to enter your heart, your spirit, your mind, and your body, so that you can be *healed* by *drinking the water He will give*. The *world* says, there are many paths to finding God. Some say, God can be whatever you want your God to be. Money. Fame. Fabulous lifestyle. Whatever works. You name it! But that will only lead to more disaster and no healing. What Jesus said is true. *"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks of the water that I give, will never be thirsty again. The water I will give you will become in you a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* (John 4:13-14) The woman at the well said, *"Lord give me this water, so that I will never thirst again."*

And we all say, AMEN.