

## Spring Up O Well

John 4:1-35

8/08/04

### Intro

This is the famous story of Jesus and the woman at the well. Their conversation gives us insights into the heart of sinful man as well as into the heart of Jesus.

The woman had been searching for her soul to be filled, but she was looking to the world to fill it.

The conversation takes place at a well and so they discuss water and thirst. Jesus quickly makes it personal and answers the very need of her soul.

*In these verses we gain insight into the gift of God in offering to us living water.*

### **I. We Need Living Water**

#### A. Jesus came to call sinners

- We will read that this woman is well known for her unrighteousness.
- Notice that Jesus doesn't begin with condemnation.
- He wants to her to see her need, yes, but first he wants her to see the gift of God and to know who He is.

**Luke 5:31-32, And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."**

- Jesus is using an analogy that says, *it is not those who think they are righteous* (for there is none who are righteous), *but rather those who know they are sick that need a physician.*

#### B. Living water is for a soul that thirsts

- Jesus offers her living water, but she does not understand what He is offering.
- She thinks Jesus is talking about physical water. He is speaking figuratively, she takes Him literally.
- You can see that she is beginning to wonder who Jesus is when she asks, **"You are not greater than our father Jacob, are you?"**
- Jesus ignores this and stays focused on helping her see that He is speaking of a thirsty soul.

**Psalm 107:9, "For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, and the hungry soul He has filled with what is good."**

#### C. Living water is a well within the soul

- Jesus says that whoever drinks of the water He gives will never thirst.

- He did not mean that if you took one drink of His water that you would never feel a thirst in the soul.

**Illus – He meant what we in America know in our own homes, we have water piped right into the house, so that when we are thirsty, we can drink; even with ice!**

- Living water is the Holy Spirit that dwells within the soul.

**John 7:37-39, Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

- I believe that Jesus also is referring to the fact that the Holy Spirit will even overflow out of our lives and minister to those around us!!

## **II. Many Look for Life in All Wrong Places**

### **A. Many seek fulfillment in relationships**

- At this point, she has come to the place of desiring the living water Jesus offers.

- But still does not understand and asks for physical living water.
- Jesus asks her to get her husband, and she responds by saying that she has no husband.
- Perhaps she thought he meant that the water would be heavy – but he then confronts with the truth...she has had five husbands and is now living with a man in sin.

**Illus – she has done what so many do today; seeking fulfillment in a man, or in a woman. They seek the excitement of a new relationship.**

**Jordi and I know a woman who has gone through many husbands and we often seen the same thing... at first, they seem so perfect -- without any faults; then, in a short time the aura fades and they are described in the worst words possible.**

**Illus – they are looking to fill a thirsty soul with the exhilaration of new love.**

### **B. We must face our problems**

- Jesus wasn't trying to be mean in this confrontation; He was getting her to see the truth of who she had become.
- As long as we live in self deception, we cannot be helped.

**John 8:31-32, Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples**

**indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**

C. We must agree with the Lord

- I don't believe she was being clever and trying to change the subject when she said, "Sir, I perceive you are a prophet."
- First, she was amazed that He knew she had five husbands and was living with another.
- Secondly, **she knew He was right** and didn't know what else to say.

**Psalm 32:1-7 When I kept silent about my sin...**

<b>III. Living Water Brings True Worship</b>
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- She sees His point; *you must be right with God.*
- But reminds Him that there is a great debate about how to worship God.
- Jesus' answer is filled with insight...

A. Worship in spirit

- Jesus answers in effect, "Where to worship will soon be irrelevant."
- Temples and buildings will no longer be necessary.

- Your soul will be the place where God will dwell- and from there you must worship.

- God is spirit and we must worship Him therefore in spirit.
- Worship, then is the uniting of spirit with spirit.

**Romans 8:16, "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God..."**

**Rom 8:26, "In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;"**

B. Worship in truth

- True worship is done in the human spirit, and it must be done in truth.
- In other words, it must not be a "put-on," but must be what you mean in truth.

**Illus - Worship is not what you do with your voice and your hands, it's what you do with your heart – and then your body responds.**

- But you can't worship with your heart, if your soul is not right with God...

**Habakkuk 2:4, "Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him;"**

C. God's will is the food of the soul

- At this point the disciples came up to Him and requested that He have something to eat.
- He responds by saying that His food is to do the will of the Father.

**Illus – we eat food when we are hungry and we feel full and satisfied.**

**Jesus is saying that to do God’s will is to be satisfied, to be full, to have a deep satisfaction with life.**

**Psalm 63:5 “My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.”**

Conclusion
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**Jesus is doing the same work within us today; that He reveals our need and offers to satisfy the soul. Many are thirsty and hungry and keep looking to the world to satisfy the soul. We were made for Him.**