

## INTRODUCTION

We're talking again about Jesus meeting a Samaritan Woman at the well. I've always been fascinated with wells. When I was a small boy I visited my great aunt and uncle who lived on a farm in Northwest Florida. It was fun to visit Uncle Bill and Aunt Nellie, because they had a real outhouse in their backyard and a real well in their front yard. I used to watch Uncle Bill drop the bucket into the well and crank it up back up full of cool clear water. After a few years, they upgraded and added an indoor toilet and a hand operated pump at the kitchen sink. It wasn't nearly as much fun to visit after that!

Two boys came upon an old well out in the country. They wanted to see how deep it was so they threw a small rock in, but didn't hear a splash. So, they tossed a bigger rock in and still didn't hear a splash. There was a concrete block nearby so they lifted it up and dropped it in, and sure enough they heard a splash. Then, to their surprise, a goat ran up and jumped into the well making a larger splash.

They were still scratching their heads when a farmer walked by and said, "Have you seen my goat?" They said, "Sir, a goat just jumped into this well." The farmer said, "I can't imagine why he would do that, I had him tied to a concrete block!"

It was at the scene of a well in Samaria where Jesus encountered a sad, lonely, outcast woman. There are many artistic renditions of this scene. The one by the Italian Master, Veronese was painted in 1585 and is on display at the Museum of Fine Arts in Vienna, Austria. Veronese always used a lot of symbolism in his works. In this scene the Samaritan woman is holding a massive chain, which is out of place, because chains weren't used at wells. It is the artist's way of communicating that she was in bondage to her sin.



*Christ and the Woman at the Well*  
Paolo Veronese c. 1580, Oil on Canvas

It was high noon on a hot day and Jesus talked with a woman who was a lonely social, moral, and racial outcast. But even with three strikes against her, Jesus offered to set her free of her sin.

John 4:7-26 CSB. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. "Give me a drink," Jesus said to her, because his disciples had gone into town to buy food. "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask him, and he would give you living water."

"Sir," said the woman, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this 'living water'? You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock."

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life."

"Sir," the woman said to him, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water." "Go call your husband," he told her, "and come back here." "I don't have a husband," she answered.

"You have correctly said, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus said. "For you've had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

"Sir," the woman replied, "I see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus told her, "Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Jesus told her, "I, the one speaking to you, am he."

This conversation took place at Jacob's Well. There is a swimming hole called Jacob's Well in the Texas Hill Country. Maybe you've been swimming in it. But the original Jacob's Well where Jesus spoke this woman still exists in the West Bank of Israel today. Like about everything else that involved Jesus, there is a church built over it. It is an Eastern Orthodox Church. Most tour groups don't go there because it is in the West Bank. But I was with a group of U.S. pastors who

visited there in the mid-1980s. The well is 135 feet deep, and there is an underground spring that supplies it. I actually had a drink of the water from Jacob's well. It was cool and delicious but, but I've got to admit I was thirsty after a few hours of heat. But many years ago, at that very spot, Jesus introduced the gift of living water.

Jesus addresses two important truths with the Samaritan woman—living water and loving worship. I had originally intended to address both topics in one message, but there's too much good stuff for thirty minutes. In this message, we'll focus on living water, and in the next message we'll dig into loving worship.

## **I. JESUS INVITES US TO DRINK LIVING WATER.**

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life." (John 4:13-14 CSB)

Air, water, and food are some of the basic necessities for physical life. Medical experts say you can live about three minutes without air. You can live about three days without water. And you can live about three weeks without food. So all of these essentials must be continually replenished. If you don't introduce H<sub>2</sub>O into your body, you will die of dehydration. Your body is about 60% water. Jesus used this basic necessity of life to teach us about living water. You can't survive eternally without taking a drink of the living water. Let's learn two things about living water.

### **A. Living Water satisfies our deepest needs.**

Jesus was the master teacher, so He used the presence of liquid water to teach us about living water. Once you experience the living water, you will never be thirsty again. In other words, it satisfies your deepest needs.

Eddie Martin was a long-time evangelist from Texas. He used to do a lot of revivals with Fritz and Shirley Smith. Eddie used to tell the story once of being on an airline flight that was only half-full. When the flight attendant offered him a drink he said, "No thank you. I had a drink thirty-three years ago, and I haven't been thirsty since." She said, "That must have been quite a drink!" Eddie said, "It was. If you want to know more about it, come back later and I'll tell you about it."

He said he didn't know if she even remembered, but after she served the other passengers she came back and sat beside him and said, "Now tell me more about this drink of yours."

Eddie said that he took out his New Testament, turned to John 4 and told her the story of Jesus and the woman at the well. When he got to the part about the living water, she said, "You know, that woman reminds me of myself. My life seems to be so dead. I need some living water." And Eddie said that right there on a Delta jet at 35,000 feet in the sky, he led that flight attendant in the sinners' prayer, and she drank the living water.

People are looking for satisfaction in all the wrong places. Some people are looking for satisfaction in money. Money will never satisfy you.

Benjamin Franklin was a wise man. He wrote this about money: "Money never made a man happy. Nor will it. There is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more a man has, the more he wants instead of filling a vacuum money it makes one. Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasures with turmoil."

There are other Americans who aren't interested in money, they are looking for satisfaction in the next thrilling experience. They are adrenaline junkies who bungee jump off the tallest bridge or scale the steepest rock face. The closer they can come to defying death, the bigger the adrenaline rush. These are the people who aren't satisfied with simple sports. They have invented a whole new category called extreme sports. The higher, faster, and more dangerous it is, the greater the rush. But those who only live for the thrill of the adrenaline find that they have to keep going higher, faster, and longer than before to get the same rush. It is a game of diminishing returns.

Whether you are looking for satisfaction in possessions, pleasure, prestige, or power—you will never be satisfied. All those pursuits are like the liquid water Jesus spoke about: You can drink it and feel refreshed momentarily but you will still get thirsty again. But He offers something so radical and powerful that once you experience it, you will find absolute and total satisfaction.

So what is the living water? Is it some magical potion? If you are familiar with the movies of Indiana Jones, in *The Last Crusade*, he finds the Holy Grail, the cup supposedly used by Jesus at the last supper. In the movie, and according to some Catholic traditions, if you drink from the Holy Grail, you will have everlasting life.

In the movie they are in a cave and there are dozens of cups. The bad guy picks the wrong cup, drinks from it and ages five hundred years in three seconds. Indiana Jones needs to pick the right cup because his dad, played by Sean Connery, has been shot and is dying.

So he picks the plain cup and dips it in the water and gives it to his dying dad. He pours it on the gunshot wound, and it disappears. But they don't live forever because they leave the magic cave. That's Hollywood drama. That's not real. But living water is real.

The living water isn't some magic potion. In fact, it may surprise you to learn what the living water really is: It is the Holy Spirit living in you. How do we know that? Because the Bible defines it in John 7. This leads us to the second thing about living water.

## **B. Living Water overflows from us to bless others.**

In John 7 Jesus spoke again about living water. But before we read His words, it's important to get the context. One of the most popular Jewish holidays was the Feast of Tabernacles. Every fall the Israelites would move out of their homes and live in tents for an entire week. This was

to commemorate the many years that the Israelites were nomadic people living in tents. Every morning for seven days the people would gather at the Temple Mount. The priest would bring a container of water from the pool of Siloam in a procession of singers. The High Priest would pour out the water on the altar while quoting from Isaiah 12. "With JOY, you shall draw water from the wells of salvation." This happened for seven days. Then on the eighth day, the celebration was even greater.

For the eighth day in a row, the High Priest would pour out the water and quote that verse. When he quoted it, there would be a period of absolute silence, and after this period of silence, the priestly choir would begin to sing again. The last day was the most important day, so picture a crowd of thousands of people on the Temple Mount. The High Priest wearing his priestly garments has just poured out the water and quoted from Isaiah 12. Then in the silence that followed, a single man stands up and begins to yell. It was Jesus. "On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.' He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified." (John 7:37-39 CSB)

Right there at the epicenter of Jewish worship, Jesus made the audacious claim that if anyone was thirsty that they should come to HIM, not the Temple. And they would have RIVERS of living water flowing out from within them.

The crowd had a divided reaction. Some wanted to follow Him and some wanted to kill Him for making that claim. Later John would understand that Jesus was talking about the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost after Jesus had been glorified in His ascension. So, basically, living water is the Holy Spirit living in you. But He doesn't just live in you to make you holy. He becomes a RIVER that flows out of you to touch and bless all those around you.

When I went with my great uncle to the well at night and he would lower the bucket. I would say, "Uncle Bill, it's dark down in the well. How do you know the bucket is full?" He would smile and say, "The only way I know it's full is when I can hear it overflowing."

And the same is true with the filling of the Holy Spirit. There is the filling of the Holy Spirit and there is the OVERFLOW of the Holy Spirit.

In his book, *Victory in Christ*, Charles Trumbull writes about seeing at a distance, a man at a hand water pump. The man was furiously pumping the handle and the water was gushing out. Dr. Trumbull paused to watch, certain that the man would soon run out of strength and stop pumping. But to his surprise, the man didn't slow down. So he decided to investigate. As he walked closer he saw that the man was dressed like a farmer with overalls and a straw hat. He thought, "I've never seen a man with such strength and stamina." Then when he approached the man he was in for a shock. He found that it wasn't a man at all. It was a wooden figure dressed as a farmer and his arm was hinged and his hand was attached to the pump handle. He saw that the hand pump was actually built over an artesian well. In a moment, he made a

tremendous spiritual truth. He realized that the man wasn't pumping the water. The water was pumping the man. He wrote that too many Christians are feverishly pumping away to imitate Christ and live the Christian life. But the secret to victory is to surrender to Christ living in you to overflow in blessings to others.

When I was in high school, I used to sing a song entitled "Fill my cup, Lord." You might have heard of it. The chorus goes, "Fill my cup, Lord. I lift it up, Lord. Come and quench this thirsting of my soul. Bread of Heaven, feed me 'till I want no more. Fill my cup. Fill it up and make me whole." I'm sure whoever wrote that song was very sincere, but I have moved on from a cup. Jesus wasn't talking about a cup. He was talking about a river. He was talking about the power and majesty of the Nile, the mighty Mississippi River, and the powerful Amazon, not the online shopping giant, but the massive river in South America that is 25 miles wide at some places. So stop thinking about cup Christianity and start living in the flow and the overflow of the mighty river of the Spirit.

The living water is the Spirit of Jesus living in you, empowering your life like a mighty river, and overflowing to bless others.

So now I prefer the song that says, "I've got a river of life flowing out of me. Makes the lame to walk and the blind to see. Opens prison doors, sets the captives free. I've got a river of life flowing out of me!"

Jesus doesn't just offer us living water, in this conversation He touches on the subject of worship. As I mentioned, I will develop this topic fully in the next message. For now, consider this a preview of the next message.

## **II. JESUS REVEALS THE SECRET OF TRUE WORSHIP.**

Jesus said, "But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth." (John 4:23-24 CSB)

So what does it mean to worship God in Spirit and in Truth?

### **A. Spirit: Worship is a passionate expression of our adoration to God.**

Worship should be a joyful expression of our love for God. The Psalmist sang: "For you have made me rejoice, Lord, by what you have done; I will shout for joy because of the works of your hands." (Psalm 92:4 CSB) When you truly connect with God in worship, sometimes you want to shout at the top of your lungs.

To worship God in spirit means that you put your whole heart into it. The opposite of this is a half-hearted attempt at worship. Jesus quoted Isaiah when he criticized the Jews for their empty worship. He said, "You draw near to God with your lips, but your hearts are far from

Him." I must confess there have been times when I have been singing the words to a praise song, but my heart wasn't in it. That's why when we worship, we must do it with all our heart.

### **B. Truth: Understand that God saved us to worship and serve Him.**

God created you to have a loving relationship with Him. He made you to proclaim His praises. The Bible says, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9 CSB)

True worship is more than just emotional expression: It must be grounded in the truth of scripture. You must worship with your emotions AND your mind.

I look forward to expanding this message on worship. But I think we've all seen or been a part of worship that was so emotional that it went to extremes and went beyond the truth of scripture. But we've also probably seen or been a part of worship that is so cerebral that there were absolutely no emotions expressed. Either extreme can prevent true worship.

If you worship with spirit but no truth you will blow up. If you worship with truth but no spirit you will dry up. When you worship God in spirit and in truth you will grow up!

The final time we read anything about living water, it's called the water of life. And it is seen as a crystal-clear water flowing out from the throne of God in the New Jerusalem. And the final verses of the entire Bible contain a Divine Invitation? So the final question I want to ask you is: Are you thirsty to know God? The Bible says, "Both the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' Let anyone who hears, say, 'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come. Let the one who desires take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:17 CSB)

God extends many invitations in the Bible, but this is the final invitation on the last page of the Bible. It's the same invitation that Jesus gave in John 7. He says, "Come and drink." And the Bible says that if you are thirsty, you can come and drink freely.

Salvation is a free gift from God, and you cannot earn a gift. A gift is something that you can either humbly accept or reject. Are you thirsty?

Years ago, First Baptist Church in Vero Beach, Florida. I was teaching the book of Revelation in a weekend. I started on Friday night and had two sessions on Saturday. Then I spoke on Sunday morning and I was finishing on Sunday night. I came to this verse where the Spirit and the Bride say COME. And whoever is thirsty let him COME. I was saying, "You need to come to Christ tonight." I wasn't finished and it wasn't the invitation yet, but this man got up and started walking down the center aisle toward the front. I stopped and said, "What are you doing?" HE said, "You said we need to come to Jesus, so I'm coming. I can't wait any longer!" I said, "Good for you!" The pastor took him aside and led him to Christ while I finished the rest of Revelation 22.

I loved that man's eagerness. There was a thirsty man, and that night he received a drink of living water so that he will never thirst again. Have you received the living water? If you have, then your life will be characterized by loving worship.



## OUTLINE

### I. JESUS INVITES US TO DRINK LIVING WATER.

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life." *John 4:13-14 CSB*

A. Living Water satisfies our deepest needs.

B. Living Water overflows from us to bless others.

"On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.' He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified." *John 7:37-39 CSB*

### II. JESUS REVEALS THE SECRET OF TRUE WORSHIP.

Jesus said, "But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth." *John 4:23-24 CSB*

A. Spirit: Worship is a passionate expression of our adoration to God.

"For you have made me rejoice, Lord, by what you have done; I will shout for joy because of the works of your hands." *Psalms 92:4 CSB*

B. Truth: Understand that God saved us to worship and serve Him.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." *1 Peter 2:9 CSB*

If you worship with spirit but no truth you will blow up.

If you worship with truth but no spirit you will dry up.

When you worship God in spirit and in truth you will grow up!

### ARE YOU THIRSTY TO KNOW GOD?

"Both the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' Let anyone who hears, say, 'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come. Let the one who desires take the water of life freely." *Revelation 22:17 CSB*

— MESSAGE DISCLAIMER —

These messages are offered for your personal edification and enrichment. I have used many sources, and I have always attempted to cite any exact quotations and/or use material that is not under copyright. Any failure to cite a quote is simply an oversight on my part.

If you are a preacher or teacher, I encourage you to use this material stimulate your own Spirit-driven preparation—*it is never intended as a substitute for your own study of Scripture.*

If you borrow the majority of a message or outline, it is good scholarship (not to mention the right thing to do) to cite the source. If you are teaching, you may simply preface your remarks by saying something like: **“Some (or “much” as the case may be) of the ideas I’m sharing in this message came from a message by Pastor David Dykes in Texas.”** This simple citation also applies to any work you may publish, too, as I routinely publish my material in books that are protected by copyright.

This careful effort on your part may prevent any criticism that may be directed toward you. I trust you will find that additional study beyond this material will benefit both you and your listeners.

For the Joy...  
Pastor David Dykes



David O. Dykes, Pastor  
Green Acres Baptist Church  
Tyler, Texas

---