

SOURCE OF LIVING WATER

John 4:1-30

We spent 5 yrs learning how dry & empty life can be in the desert.

We read about people dying on the desert, trying to enter U.S.

The land God gave His people was in a desert.

They know how dry and empty life can be in the desert.

That dry physical condition, becomes an allegory of our spiritual condition.

As cool refreshing water satisfies physical thirst, we need some-thing to satisfy our *spiritual* thirst

John develops the thought:

When life seems dry & empty, Jesus is able to satisfy our thirst.

1st of John's 7 signs:

Wedding in Cana.

Testimony of best wine 2

Evidence Jesus is God

So we will trust Him & receive eternal life.

Jesus creates best wine ever, out of plain water!

Object lesson: Jesus came to satisfy our thirst—our spiritual thirst for God!

Miracle of making best wine teaches truth about Jesus:

One truth runs as theme through several chapters:

Jesus is able to satisfy our thirst.

Jesus is able to create blessing out of empty ceremonial water pots [of Israel or of any religion!].

Religious ritual can't satisfy our thirst—but JESUS can!

If your religious water pots have left you dry and empty,

I have good news: **Jesus came to satisfy our thirst!**

Testimony to Nicodemus concerning new birth 3

Story of Nicodemus builds on miracle at Cana.

Jesus, Who came to satisfy our thirst, is Source of *eternal* life!

Jesus exposes his real need:

Recognition of His divine origin isn't enough; we must be born again

3:3 "...no one can see the kingdom of God unless he's born again."

You must be born physically to have natural life.

You must be born spiritually to have spiritual life.

We must trust Him **14-16**

"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his one & only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

So we must trust Christ (we can't do it ourselves!)

All who looked to the serpent were saved (from *physical* death).

All who trust Jesus will be saved (receive *eternal* life).

Those who stop trying to "do it themselves" & trust Jesus, receive eternal life.

¹⁸*Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one & only Son."*

Jesus satisfies Nicodemus' thirst.

Story of dry, empty people, whether religious or pagan, who are satisfied by Jesus, doesn't end with Nicodemus

Testimony to a Samaritan woman concerning the water of life 4:1-30

Even the story of the Samaritan woman is linked to the miracle of changing the water into wine.

What does their conversation focus on?

"Those who drink this water are going to get thirsty again."

*"I can give you water that will permanently solve the problem
—it will quench your thirst once and for all!"*

"Whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst. Indeed the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Jesus' message isn't limited to religious leaders.

He satisfies thirst of the worst sinners, who come to Him.

Samaritan woman shows how Jesus satisfies the thirst of *sinners*.

Jesus presents Himself as the Source of Living Water, that can satisfy her thirst.

Discussion concerning living water 4-15

Begins when Jesus asks the woman for a drink.

4-8 *Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)*

The woman is shocked that Jesus asks her for a drink.

No good Jewish man would do that! Especially not a religious leader! ⁹ "The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew & I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

She's amazed that Jesus cares enough about her need to reach across that cultural barrier of racial prejudice to care about her needs.

Jesus concern gets her attention.

Jesus again cuts through the routine conversation.

He takes her right to the heart of the matter: **10**

"Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

She realizes that He's talking about more than physical water in a well.

He has no way to access well water.

But Jesus is offering her "Living Water."

Could He be GREATER than Jacob? 11-12 *"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with & the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well & drank from it himself, as did also his sons & his flocks & herds?"* Jesus tells her more about the water He's offering.

13-14 *"Jesus answered, "Every-one who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

She recognizes her thirst and asks for His water. **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."

She still doesn't get his point.

She's still thinking about *physical* water
to satisfy physical thirst.

Though she understands He's offering a *perpetual spring* inside her
So Jesus brings her to the point of understanding her real need.

Confrontation concerning her need 16-18

"He told her, "Go, call your husband & come back." ¹⁷"I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸The fact is, you have had 5 husbands, & the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

Jesus is able to see what's on the inside.

He penetrates to the level of her inner thoughts.

He understands connection between her thirst & the men in her life.

Her life has been a string of unfulfilling relationships.

Suddenly she gets the point.

She recognizes her need.

She's been "thirsty" for some-one to fill the vacuum inside.

She's looking for someone to love her, to make her feel valued.

She's looking for that story-book character who will carry her away
to live "happily ever after."

He brings back to mind all the deception & the empty feelings:

"Why can't someone come along who can satisfy my thirst?"

Aware of futility of such thinking, she changes the subject.

Question concerning the place for worship 19-24

Aware that Jesus is a spokesman for God—a prophet, she asks Him about the burning Samaritan issue of their day:

"Where are we supposed to worship?" 19-20

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

Samaritans had developed their own religious system.

They were a race of “half-breeds”—Jewish people mixed with pagans.

Because of their *Jewish* heritage they continued to worship Yah-weh, the God of their fathers.

Yet they’re outcasts from Israel.

They establish their own worship center at Mt. Gerizim.

They develop their own version of Pentateuch which is accurately translated, but changes a few letters to make references to Jerusalem = Gerizim.

They’re watching for Messiah’s coming

–HE’ll straighten out this mess!

Jesus responds: 21-24 *Jesus declared, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming & has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit & truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, & his worshipers must worship in spirit & in truth.”*

God isn’t concerned about place.

God isn’t concerned about our forms of worship.

God is concerned about true worship, from the heart.

When His kingdom is established, everyone will worship Him in their heart.

God’s plan is to bless them through the Jews–

Jesus is the Source of that blessing.

If she trusts Him, she’ll receive blessing God promised.

Identification of Jesus as Messiah 25-27 25-26

“The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he’ll explain everything to us.” ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I who speak to you am he.”

Again she changes the subject—sort of!

Or, is she suspicious that there’s more to this visit than just a man at a well?

Is she raising the question whether HE’s the One they’re waiting for?

He’s certainly different than any man she ever met before!

Could HE be the One?

That’s question she plants to everyone in sight, as she returns to town.

Testimony of the woman to the city 28-30

“Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to town & said to the people, ²⁹“Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” ³⁰They came out of the town & made their way toward him.

Jesus told her everything she’d done.

Jesus changed her life.

Jesus satisfied her thirst.

SO, HOW ABOUT YOU? Is your cup feeling dry and empty?

If Jesus were to meet you at the well this morning, would He observe that you are thirsty?
would He see vacuum in your life you're looking for someone to fill?

Jesus specializes in satis-fying people who are dry and empty.

Jesus came to satisfy our thirst.

He can take that which is empty and fill it.

Jesus can satisfy our thirst.

Jesus' followers trust Him

& see God's glory revealed through Him.

Nicodemus trusts Him

& He gives new life to that empty life of religious ritual.

The woman at the well trusts Him & He satisfies her thirst;

He tells her all she's ever done, & changes her life.

He came to offer new life and blessing to **US TOO**.

That's why Jesus came to this world.

Now He offers that new life to all who trust Him.

He'll take that dry, empty life and fill it with blessing,

when we quit trying to "do it ourselves," and trust Him.

TESTIMONY TO US

Jesus specializes in satisfying people who are dry and empty.

Is that YOU?

Jesus can take our dry, empty life & fill it.

Jesus can satisfy our thirst

Will YOU trust Him?

If you're already trusting Him, has He satisfied YOUR thirst?

**Are we, like that woman, sharing that refreshing, satisfying water of life
with thirsty, empty people around US?**

Our Lord cared enough about this thirsty woman that **He goes to an unpleasant place to
find her.**

--He reaches out to her, even in the midst of a hard day.

She cares enough about people around her that she wants to tell *everyone in town* about
Jesus.

Do WE care that much about people around us?