

The Fountain of Life

(John 4:1-42)

Scripture: Revelation 22:17 “The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. NASU

Introduction:

We have all seen movies where people are out in the desert and find themselves dying because they lack water. They can't keep cool because the water to make sweat is not there. They are dehydrated. Their throats began to close off because they are parched. They began to hallucinate, their bodies start shutting down until they die.

A man is lost in the Sahara desert. He used up the last of his water three days ago and he's lying, gasping, on the sand, when in the distance he suddenly hears a voice calling, "Mush! Mush!" Not trusting his ears he turns his head and there it is again, closer this time -- "Mush! Mush!" Propping himself up on one elbow he squints against the sun and sees, of all things, an Eskimo bundled up in furs driving a sled with a team of huskies across the dunes. Thinking that it's a hallucination, he blinks and shakes his head, but it's for real! He painfully lifts one arm and in a cracked voice calls, "He-elp!" The Eskimo pulls the sled up by him, the huskies panting in the heat, and he says to the Eskimo, "I don't know what you're doing here, or why, but thank God you are! I've been wandering around this desert for days, my water's all gone and I'm completely lost!" The perspiring Eskimo looks down at him and says, "YOU'RE lost?!!"

In some of these movies we see these people out in the desert finding an oasis. A pool or fountain of water in an unexpected place and they are revived. I always like that part of the movie when they live and are refreshed.

Most of us are familiar with the story of the “Woman at the well.” If you would like to follow along you can be turning over to John chapter 4. Here we see Jesus out in the desert traveling from Judea to Galilee. It seems that the Pharisees had been trying to stir up contentions between Jesus’ ministry and John the Baptists, so Jesus left the region and headed for Galilee.

This trip would take Jesus, not by accident, but really by divine appointment, to a water well outside a small Samaritan town called Sychar. There Jesus finds himself hungry and thirsty, physically weary and tired. Tuckered out, He sat down by the well while the disciples went into the city to buy food. There he meets a Samaritan woman who has come to draw water.

TS [May I suggest that there are a lot of people out in the desert of life who need our help!](#) This morning, lets consider how this Samaritan Woman comes to the well. Tired and weary just like Jesus, but in a different way, she is tired and weary in a spiritual sense.

Read:

John 4:6b-27

6b It was about the sixth hour. 7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "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.) 10 Jesus answered and said to 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." 11 She said to Him, " Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? 12 "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?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 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."

15 The woman said to Him, " Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." 16 He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." 19 The woman said to Him, " Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 " Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 " You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." 26 Jesus said to her, " I who speak to you am He."

27 At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why do You speak with her?"
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Lesson:

I. The Woman at the well

- 6th hour (Noon)
 - Going to get water
 - Not usual time though
 - She was alone
 - Probably not welcome with other woman
 - She had made a lot of bad decisions
 - 5 HUSBANDS & SHACKED UP A MAN
- She was a Samaritan, a mixture of Jew and Assyrian
 - Considered unclean before God
- Spiritually she was taught a mixture of truth and fabrication
 - She did not know the gift of God
 - Or recognize Jesus

*Spiritually parched....like a person out in the desert needing a fountain of life

II. Here at the well, Jesus asks her for a drink of water

-In the story the idea of the need for water is the springboard for teaching her the truth of eternal life.

- Jesus speaks to her even though not fitting
 - Woman.....culturally wrong
 - Samaritanoutcast
 - Sinner
 - *Jesus looked past all that

- Jesus got into her world.
 - He went to where she was
 - Came along side her circumstance
- Placed himself in the right place and right time
 - Not because of happenstance
 - But because of purpose

-He struck up a conversation

- You see, Jesus is evangelizing
 - While the disciples are chasing bread.
 - They hadn't shared Jesus with anyone in the city

**Church how often do we get so busy with the hustle and bustle of life
When we should be going out and finding people where they are and asking for

a drink of water.

-Creating an opportunity to help them reach the fountain of life.

III. Jesus offers her living water.

In (Verse 10) Jesus says

"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 uses an allegory from her present life.

-Something she would understand

-2 things were in view here

1st flowing water isn't stagnatefor purification

2nd And Jesus shares with her the idea of a water pot that is continually filled....ie flowing water

-He is pointing to the spiritual

-Though she doesn't understand yet

-Jesus goes on to tell her in (Verse 13-14)

"Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 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."

-Latter in John 7:37-39 Jesus further explains

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive..."

-Verse 15 shows that she wanted this

-Still didn't understand

*Jesus' water is a fountain of life!

IV. Jesus exposes her sin

-Verses 16-18 Jesus says

"Go, call your husband and come here." 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.

-He didn't worry about conflict

-He exposed her sin

-Ephesians 5:11 "Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;"

-She can't possibly turn from sin till she knows that she is wrong.

-This isn't judgingalthough it can be seen that way

*She realizes her need for the fountain of life.

V. **She tries to hide behind a changed subject**

-In Verse 19 she says “ Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.”

-Then she tries to hide behind a changed subject (Verse 20-24)

-Asking about the proper place of worship

-When Jesus explains

-She says when the Messiah comes he will straighten all this out

-Until Verse 26 where Jesus says to her, " I who speak to you am He."

* The fountain of life had found her in a spiritual desert.

VI. **Samaritan Woman response to Jesus**

Verses 28-30 says

“So the woman left her water-pot, and went into the city and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" 30 They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.”

-Leaves water pot

-Now she has the true water in mind

-She is looking to spiritual

-She goes and tells everyone

Verses 39-42 says

“From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, " He told me all the things that I have done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 Many more believed because of His word; 42 and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world."

-Lot of folks come to believe because this woman found Jesus

*The fountain of life is to be shared ...there is room for all.

VII. Jesus' instructions to the disciples

Verses 31-38 says

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, " Rabbi, eat." 32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work." 35 "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest." 36 "Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 "For in this case the saying is true, ' One sows and another reaps.' 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor."

- Jesus' nourishment was to do the will and work of God
- Harvest is now

*The fountain of life comes with responsibility

Conclusion:

The Samaritan woman really represents many today who are crawling through the desert of life needing desperately to find a fountain to sustain them.

Often times people today like the man and the Eskimo at the beginning of our story lost needing help. They are generally headed for a mirage thinking it is the right thing to do.

They are Spiritually weary and Parched

- Shall we not show them to the Oasis in the wilderness of life. (Jesus)

Jesus says come unto me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.