

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 25TH - 26TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

LIVING WATER (JOHN 4:1-14) STARTING TO SEE SOME OPPOSITION

The Pharisees were getting upset at Jesus' growing popularity. So, as not to detract from ministry, He decided to travel to another area.

- **Jesus was fully God and fully man** for His 33 years on earth. John says, "Jesus learned."
Does this mean Jesus had limited foresight and the human side grew in knowledge?

AND WHY DIDN'T JESUS BAPTIZE?

More than likely the reason why He let His followers do this was not to make more of the physical act than the spiritual implications.

- Baptism is a proper step in the walk of a Christian, but we must remember **it is not the water or person that saves us, but God working due to our obedience.**

THIS WASN'T THE QUICKEST ROUTE

To get from Judea to Galilee, one would travel northwest through Jericho, but Jesus went a longer route and through an area where Jews and Samaritans were hostile toward each other.

- Notice John said Jesus "had to." One reason why was to teach that **we must address any enmity we have with others.**

"JESUS, WORN OUT FROM HIS JOURNEY"

Again, **Jesus on earth had a human side that got tired and frustrated but didn't sin because of divinity.** On His trip, He came to Jacob's well (Genesis 33) around noon.

- During the hottest part of the day, a Samaritan woman approached the well, and Jesus engaged her in conversation.

TABOO ON SEVERAL LEVELS

For Jesus to casually address a woman like this in public would have been controversial. This woman was also a social outcast and a Samaritan, a group of people the Jews despised since 722 B.C.

- Jews even thought they were spiritually unclean if they touched anything Samaritan.

WHY DOES THE SETTING MATTER SO MUCH?

In a **loving and truthful** manner, Jesus engaged the worst of society and debunked several misconceptions.

- **Christians can't be racist or sexist, we're to be loving to ALL people, even the most egregious sinners, and we share the truth without compromising biblical integrity.**

"LIVING WATER"

The woman at the well couldn't get past her physical problems and their consequences.

Jesus wasn't offering a temporary/natural fix, but a permanent/spiritual fix.

- "Living water" is the Spirit of God that is given to those who repent and follow Him. **This "water" sustains us until He returns.**

AN INTERESTING CONVERSATION

Jesus' initial question sparked multiple levels of conversation about personal hurt, generational hatred, addressing sin, and how to be fulfilled and saved.

- The water the woman came to draw had to be **obtained from her abilities, but Jesus was offering another way.**

OUR "WATER" NEVER FULFILLS

When we depend on just the physical to sustain us, we die. Sometimes this can be physical death, but it is always spiritual.

- **Simply put, our lusts, sex and pleasure, materialism, titles and accolades, money, power, and affirmation will not be enough to give us the contentment we desire.**

Jeremiah 2:13

"I...AM HE" (JOHN 4:15-26)

SARCASTIC OR NICODEMUSESQUE?

Like Nicodemus, the woman had a false sense of spiritual security, was materialistic, and spiritually empty and lost. Unlike Nic, we get a sense of sarcasm from v15.

- Jesus met that sarcasm with a sobering statement, "Go call your husband...and come back here."

ADMITTING THAT WE HAVE COMMITTED EVIL

In v16, all metaphors are set aside, and the conversation is straightforward. The Bible is clear on right and wrong, and **when confronted with the truth of our sin, we must then decide to own up or make excuses.**

- **Since the woman was truthful, Jesus could proceed with her transformation.**

ADDRESSING THE UNTHINKABLE

Having five husbands and living with a sixth who wasn't her husband would've been a top-tier sin, but Jesus looks at sin differently. **All sin separates us from Him but can be forgiven.**

- **We must be willing to get out of our comfort zones and minister to the "worst" people, regardless of what others think.**

A QUICK DETOUR TO RELIGION?

After the embarrassing verbalization of her sin, the woman tries to turn the discussion to religion by calling Jesus a prophet and saying the Jews want them to worship in Jerusalem.

- **We tend to change the subject or blame shift when our sin becomes known, but Jesus leaves us without an excuse.**

IT IS NOT BY RELIGION BUT A RELATIONSHIP

Jesus makes it clear that it doesn't matter where we worship God (methodology) but that we do it in Spirit and truth (good theology)!

- **We are to worship with our hearts, attitudes, and emotions (Spirit) and with our minds, intellect, and the Word of God (Truth).**

"I...AM HE"

After the woman shows she does have faith and is anticipating the Savior to fix her and the squabbles of her people, Jesus drops the ultimate bomb, "I...am He."

- **Imagine the reaction to the fact that God in the flesh is conversing with you. The realization must have been staggering.**

THE HARVEST (JOHN 4:27-38)

NO ONE SAID, "WHY ARE YOU TALKING TO HER?"

After going to get food, the 12 come back and see Jesus talking to a woman, but they respect and trust Him enough not to ask why.

- Obviously, something had changed in the woman because she "left her water jar" to go tell people in the town to come meet the man who could be the Messiah.

THE FIRST EXAMPLE OF BEING BORN AGAIN

Though the conversation had started with Nicodemus, this is the first clear example in the Bible of someone being saved by the gospel.

- The 12 hadn't witnessed the change, so they were focused on Jesus getting some food. Jesus replies, "I have food to eat that you don't know about."

ANOTHER CASE OF ONLY SEEING THE NATURAL

Because of the spiritual immaturity of the 12, they didn't understand the metaphor. So, Jesus explains that **our primary food for life is not physical, but spiritual.**

- **Though we help with physical needs, the main goal of Christ and the Church is the restoration of souls.**

THE HARVEST

Jesus transitioned the conversation of food to another analogy about people being fruit to be gathered for "eternal life."

- Jesus told His followers to **"Open your eyes and look at the fields." We must be praying and looking for opportunities to share the gospel with others!**

"ONE SOWS AND ANOTHER REAPS"

We will not always see the fruit of our labor, and we may see fruit that we didn't labor for. **The point is not to be in competition with other Christians, but to reach as many lost people as possible!**

- **Eternity is far too serious to be divided over jealousy or minor differences!**

TRUTH SPREADS (JOHN 4:39-42)

"NOW MANY SAMARITANS...BELIEVED"

Most people in town knew the woman and her reputation. When she came back and **there was excitement and an obvious change, they were intrigued and searched for answers.**

- **When people see the fruit of God's work in our lives, most will be curious as to how we've found joy and fulfillment.**

A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

John writes, "Many more believed because of what He said," but the town **would have never had an interest in meeting Jesus without the woman's testimony.**

- Eventually, the truth became their own. It was no longer about God touching someone else; they had a testimony themselves.

RESPONSIBILITY AND SOMETHING BETTER

- We must take **responsibility**, both for our actions and our relationship with Jesus.
- We must acknowledge we need saving, repent for sin when we fall, and **believe Jesus has a better way for us.**

- We must also worship Jesus appropriately in **Spirit and truth.**

HOW DID JESUS WITNESS TO OTHERS?

- When Jesus encountered a sinful outcast, He was **friendly, asked questions, listened, showed genuine concern, was honest, emphasized we can be forgiven, changed, and saved, and explained Scripture.**

- Jesus looked beyond race, gender, politics, mistakes, and failures **to see humanity.**

OUR WITNESS

- For people to see the change in our lives and to get a glimpse of Jesus, we must be around people who don't know Him.

- This doesn't mean we do or condone sinful things, but that **we get out of our comfort zones for the sake of reaching others through truth and love!**

AN INVENTORY

- Are we honest and remorseful when we sin?
- Do we truly believe God's way is superior to ours? If so, why are we working so hard for worldly things?
- Do we love people? Are we looking beyond differences and faults to see humanity? **Are we willing to get uncomfortable?**