

Go To The Well...Living Water!

John 4:6-15

October 7, 2018

Here we are on our last journey to the final well. For those who have been here the last 6 weeks we have experienced the wells of Life, Covenant, Clogged, Wilderness, Broken and Sacrifice.

Today there are two journeys I want us to go on as we make our way to the final well...the well of Living Water!

The first journey is about a traveler on a hot day walking for miles in the middle of somewhere. He had a couple of water bottles in his backpack. As the day went on and the sun got overhead he started taking in some water. He was staying hydrated with the water he had supplied himself with before the journey.

By mid-afternoon, the traveler made a frightening discovery. He went to reach for his water bottle and it was empty. He went to grab the second water bottle and it was empty as well. Out in the middle of somewhere, feeling dehydrated he begins to freak out.

As he takes his next steps he comes up on a strange and unexpected site. He sees an old run down hut and next to it a hand water pump. The only source of water for miles around in the middle of somewhere. He can't believe his luck. He stumbles up to it and begins to pump the handle up and down. To his frustration all he hears is the sound of metal hitting metal...no water.

He then notices an old baking powder can attached to the base of the pump with a handwritten message inside, written in pencil on a torn piece of a brown shopping bag.

This is the message...listen closely as if you were this thirsty traveler:

"The pump is all right and in working order. I put a new leather sucker washer into it and it ought to last another five years or more. But, the washer dries out when not used regularly and the pump has to be primed.

Under the white rock to the side of the pump I buried a bottle of water, out of the sun and the cap end up, so as not to let any water leak out. There's enough water in it to prime this pump... but not if you drink any of the water first. Pour in the opening of the pump 1/4 of the water in the bottle and let it soak to wet the leather washer.

Then pour the rest of the water into the pump medium fast, and begin to pump the handle up and down at a steady pace.

YOU WILL GET WATER!

The well has never run dry. Have faith. When you get watered up, fill up your water containers for the rest of your journey, do not forget to fill the primer bottle with water and put it back just as you found it for the next thirsty sojourner.

WARNING!!! You are going to be tempted, when you first see the one primer bottle of water, to drink it immediately to satisfy your thirst. But you'll soon get thirsty again and so will everyone else who journeys this way in the middle of somewhere. If you empty the bottle out, as instructed, you and many others will have all the water you want."

How would you have reacted, dehydrated thirsty, in the middle of somewhere and holding that bottle of primer water? In the middle of our dehydrated somewheres of life we need to listen to the directions and then put them into action.

Now we are to travel our second journey to the well of living water. There is a sojourner who is tired from his day and half of walking. It is high noon and he can't go any further into town to get some food and drink. He sends his fellow travelers on in to the near by town while he takes a break by a well. The sojourner is Jesus, the well is the well of Jacob.

It is a hot sunny day in Sychar, Samaria. The path he took was not around Samaria. He went through the region, even though he was a Jew. For over 400 years there had been the feud between the Jews and Samaritans. It was as bad as the Hatfields and McCoys or the North and the South or the Canes and the Noles or Gators!

Jews considered Samaritans to be inferior, a mixed breed, and in their eyes they were unacceptable, untouchables, unclean and to be avoided at all costs.

As Jesus was sitting at the well, not able to get any water, because he didn't have a water container to lower down into the well, someone else walked up to the well. It was a Samaritan woman. It's no small wonder that we see a woman coming to the well at this time of the day, high noon. Usually, the women of the village would come in the cool of the morning and early evening to collect the water needed for their families. It's no small wonder that Jesus speaks to this woman whose background check revealed she had been married 5x's and was now living with her boyfriend. She had a notorious reputation in the village and was probably avoiding the looks of ridicule and judgment by the other women by coming to the well at noon by herself.

Jesus asked her a shocking question: "Will you give me a drink of water?"

Here was the Messiah, the Son of God, tired and thirsty, asking a Samaritan woman for a drink of water.

This request was a bottle of water to prime the pump to break down barriers of status, religion, nationality and judgment. Here is the beginning of Jesus inviting anyone to the well of living water. Here is God so loving the world, not in some theological theory, but in the thirsty reality of life, to come to the well of living water.

The woman couldn't believe her eyes. She was talking to a Jew who didn't pass judgment. A man who listened and understood and didn't condemn. It is here at the well of living water that we find Jesus placing his confidence in a very unlikely individual with a corrupt past.

Jesus ended up priming the pump of the well of living water and offering her a drink.

She tasted the water of forgiveness and new life.

In every human there is a thirst for something more than the water we carry in our backpacks. That water will eventually run out. We find ourselves standing at a well with instructions on how to prime the pump. We are so tempted to ignore the directions and take a sip of the water before priming the pump. When we do we discover the pump doesn't provide the water. Our self-centeredness, our own desires over others, will not provide the water we are in search of and our thirst will only be temporarily satisfied.

Jesus guided the woman to take a good look at herself. He knew of her past life of divorce and sin. He called her to taste the water of the well of living water. He was challenging her not to compare herself to others but to look at herself in the eyes of the Messiah, Jesus.

The Christian life, the life primed and pumped at the well of living water, a life thirst that becomes quenched in the middle of the somewheres of life, will become quenched only when we begin to honestly realize the bottles of water of life we are relying on will eventually become empty.

We have watched ourselves and others realize that money, possessions, addictions, status, job or others will not quench our thirst. We keep reaching for our own supply of water and soon we come up empty. Where do you get your supply of water for your bottles of life from?

The woman at the well had a choice: prime the pump of the well of living water that Jesus was offering or drink the primer bottle of water that will run out. The choice was to believe who Jesus was and what he was offering her or to walk away from the well of living water and continue to live a life of sin.

We need to stop the tape and insert ourselves into the scene at the well of living water. We are being asked by Jesus, "Do you want to quench that thirsting in your life with living water or with your self-supplied water? Are you willing to follow the instructions of Jesus and prime the pump or will you seek to satisfy your own self desires and drink the bottle of primer water?"

Like the woman at the well, we have a choice to make each day we travel through the middle of our somewheres. Our own bottle of water that will eventually come up empty, or the well of living water that will never go dry.

But we can't stop here. We have to look at the rest of the story. (vss. 34-42)

No discovery of living water is complete unless we are willing to share it with others. The woman went back to her village of Sychar, and told the folks who rejected and ridiculed her about the well of living water. She had tasted and experienced the Messiah.

She was willing to fill the bottle of primer water so others would be able to taste the living water in the middle of their somewheres journey in life.

The people of her village followed her back to the well. They met Jesus. They tasted the living water. They invited Jesus to stay with them. They desired their lives to be filled with the living water of Jesus Christ. They primed the pump and drank from the well of living water.

Anyone here thirsty?

If I open this bottle of primer water and take a drink, does this quench your thirst? No!

If I selfishly forget to prime the pump then what good is it to others? None!

Maybe your pump has dried out because of lack of use. It has been a long time since you drank from the well of Jesus' living water.

No one can quench your thirst as you journey through your life for you. You have to decide if you are willing to prime the pump, follow the instructions of God's Word, and drink for yourself the life-giving love of Jesus.

Today we are meeting brothers and sisters from all over the world at this well of living water. This is World Communion Sunday. All who have experienced the well of living water in Jesus are coming to remember his love. We come to remember the day we primed the pump and accepted the life-giving water of Jesus as our Savior.

All who are weary and thirsty come to the well. Taste the water... the living water of Jesus.

As we leave and head back out on our journey in life, be sure to offer the love of Jesus, the living water of Jesus, to others you find thirsty and dehydrated by life.

Jesus offers to anyone, no matter their background, their shame, their rejection, the same living water he offered to that Samaritan woman that day. He offers to all who come to the well his life-giving water of eternal life.

Go to the well!

