

Living Water- Power of Water

A Sermon by Karissa Matson, Director of CE

John 4:6-15, 25-30

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Rev 21:5, 6c, Isaiah 44:3-5

I can only imagine the lady at the well asking- How many more times do I have to come to this dumb well in the hot sun and sand? I know I have asked myself when I was out in the elements back in my camp days, dear lord- you know it can rain anytime you want to. Or maybe you were on a sports time- asking in your head- Coach, we have been out here all day- do we really need to run another lap?

Life can be pretty hard sometimes. When you're in school or at work, it can be pretty hard to make it through the whole day. Then, you have to go home and do homework and work waiting for you at home. Sometimes, it seems like there's never a moment's rest.

Can you imagine doing all those laps at a practice and all you want is water afterwards and you see a coach resting against the water igloo and societies expectations is that the coach gets the water first without even have to talk to you, oh and you now have to do twice that work just to get a cup of water.

And as soon as see walks up to well she must have had that same kind of feeling.

"Aw, look! There's a man resting against the well. Just by looking at him, he looks like one of those Northern Jews. Oh, great! That means when I get there he probably won't say anything to me. He'll ignore me first of all because I'm a woman, and the Jewish men can be so stupid when they are around women. They don't believe they should speak to women. He might even be one of those Jews who hides his eyes when he sees a woman coming. If he doesn't ignore me because I'm a woman, he'll ignore me because I'm a Samaritan. The Jews think we're a bunch of half-breeds or unpure Jews. They think that we don't worship in the right place, which of course, is the temple at Jerusalem and not Mount Gerizim where we worship. And they think we're confused, because we use only the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures. Oh well, I might as well get over it with. Here's the well. I can't believe it! He's actually looking at me!"

He says- "Give me a drink." I can't believe it! He's actually speaking to me! I must ask why. "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria? For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. You don't even believe in eating out of the same bowls we use."

"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink' you would have asked me and I would have given you living water."

I might have known! He's going to make fun of me! He's saying the water from our father Jacob's well is not good enough for him! He wants flowing, running, living water and he knows this well doesn't have that kind of water!

"Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that kind of living and flowing water? Are you saying you're greater than our father Jacob who gave us the well and drank from it himself and his sons and his cattle?"

"Every one who drinks of this water from this well will get thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give will never get thirsty again; the water that I shall give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Surely he's mocking me! There is no water that will keep you from getting thirsty again! Who does he think he's fooling? "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw!"

Who is this man?! It seems as if he knows my very thoughts! How could he know this, except if he were a prophet and receives words from God like Moses did. He's speaking like the teacher we've been waiting for--the one who will be like Moses. He will teach us all things. Maybe the Jews aren't so bad after all. "I know that the Teacher is coming--the anointed one--when he comes, he will teach us all things and we will know all."

"I am he. I am who I am."

Oh! Can this be true! Can this be the one we've waited for! He knows so much about me! When he looks at me, it is as if he looks right through me into my heart.

Oh! I did not see these men coming! Well, they're not speaking to me. I don't even care! I am in such a daze! I can't believe what's going on! I must tell my friends! They'll never believe me! I must run! I'll leave my water jar here, it's too hard to run with! Oh, I cannot run fast enough! There's some of my friends! "Come here! You must see this man who told me everything I ever did. Can he be the anointed one!" Maybe he's right! I won't have to be thirsty again!

The woman at the well received something that day! She knew that she needed food and water for her body, but one relationship after another had failed. Her religion gave her meaning, but she had a hard time believing it could all boil down to where you worship! She was searching for something--for meaning. And so we search!

We search by turning to the fakeness of social media to relieve and forget the pain of life. We search by trying to get all the gusto we can out of life! Just party all the time! Back in my day we had a saying "YOLO- You Only Live Once".

We search by trying to look exactly like the newest and most popular person on social media or TV like Tom Cruise or Mr. Breast.

We search by putting others down, so we won't have to look at ourselves! We search by filling our time with meaningless chores, while never finding time for anyone else. We search because we can't rid ourselves of a guilt-ridden conscience.

We're thirsty! We can't get full! We seem so empty!

Life indeed is empty, when we try to do things on our own...when we look to ourselves totally for meaning! Life is just a rat race, if we have no purpose! Life doesn't have to remain that way!

For God we read that He is seating on his throne as the "the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End" and yet He gets off his throne and gives water without cost for those that only ask of it.

There is water for the thirsty! There is meaning for us when we're in despair. There is purpose for those wandering aimlessly. There is a way to cope with all the pain! There is living water from this one named Jesus! Jesus says, "Come to the fountain, drink till you're full. I know you are thirsty, you won't be denied. I felt every teardrop that in darkness you've cried. And I've strove to remind you, that for those tears I died." (From the song "For Those Tears I Died")

When life is hard, we know that we have a God who bears it with us! When you feel lonely, remember Jesus was lonely too. Jesus will be our friend when others won't. When we are in places that seem so ungodly, God is even there! If we ascend to the heavens, God is there! If we make our bed in the pits of life, God is there! If we take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the seas, God is even there! If we say let the darkness cover me, I want to give up on life! God turns that darkness into day and gives meaning to life!

And just like water God form may change depending on what we need but like water the chemically breakdown of H₂O doesn't change when it changes from water to ice to even steam- it is water. Our titles in life constantly change from student to teacher, from daughter to sister to a motherly figure, we are still the same human- maybe faced more battles or learned more lessons, but still chemically the same.

We don't bear our hurts alone! We belong to God who gives living water to the thirsty! Come to the fountain, God says. Drink forgiveness. Drink meaning. Drink grace. Drink hope. Drink love. Drink purpose. Let's drink the living water--the water that only God can give--and let's worship God in spirit and in truth.