

“Domine, volumus Jesum videre,” John 12:21.

“Credo, Domine; adjuva incredulitatem meam,” Mark 9:24.

JOHN 4

⁵So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the piece of land Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob’s well was there. Then Jesus, being tired from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸(His disciples had gone into town to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹“Sir,” she said, “you don’t even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this living water? ¹²You are not greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us this well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his animals.” ¹³Jesus answered her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I will give him will never be thirsty ever again. Rather, the water I will give him will become in him a spring of water, bubbling up to eternal life.” ¹⁵“Sir, give me this water,” the woman said to him, “so I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” ¹⁶Jesus told her, “Go, call your husband, and come back here.” ¹⁷“I have no husband,” the woman answered. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say, ‘I have no husband.’ ¹⁸In fact, you have had five husbands, and the man you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true.” ¹⁹“Sir,” the woman replied, “I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews insist that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will not worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. ²³But a time is coming and now is here when the real worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for those are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (the one called Christ). “When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I, the one speaking to you, am he.”



The Samaritan woman was clearly WELS/ “wells”. She was drawing from the well of Jacob and she found the real well of living water with Jesus. There, we’ve covered at least two wells with this woman so I think we’ll take her in.

You’re about 60% water and you’d like to drink more water than you think. Brain, heart, lungs, muscles, kidneys – all are well over 70% water. Even our bones need to be 30% water. When we’re out of water, we are thirsty.

Juan Ponce de Leon was thirsty for fresh water. He searched America, thought he was in Asia, but he made it to Hispaniola and Puerto Rico and Florida. He and his Spanish conquistadors expected to find the remnants of the garden of Eden, to drink from it and become youthful again. Ponce de Leon discovered a freshwater spring, rich in minerals, healthy water. But nothing in the Americas or Asia for that matter would reverse age in the way the legends were told.

You wouldn’t believe that. But you are digging wells. You do dig for the wrong water. I wish we believers, same-time-saints-and-sinners, wouldn’t, but we do, dig wells in places other than the gospel. We hunt for springs that don’t satisfy. What would it be like if we constantly instead ...

DRINK THE GOSPEL DEEPLY

1. Sinners thirst

You may say that Jesus thirsted, but He’s not a sinner. Okay, I understand that. That’s not what I mean by “thirst” but we can run with that. Jesus is true God but certainly true man, because He was tired of this journey. The sixth hour in Jewish time was around 12 noon. Jesus needed a drink.

This was admittedly a “bad part of town” for a Jew like Jesus. When the woman came along, there were barriers: political, cultural, social, gender, moral. She was a Samaritan woman. Samaritans and Jews had a bad history, and conversations in public between a man and a woman were off-limits. There just wasn’t a whole lot of reason for Jesus to talk to this woman.

But Jesus was there to defy every barrier. He was thirsty for a drink, but He knew that the woman also thirsted, or she wouldn’t even be at this well.

She was surprised by the question. How is it that you are speaking to me? Jesus seized on the surprise. He went for it. He actually has water, and she should have asked Him for it. Real water. Living water. The water of life. When you drink it you don't thirst ever again.

Now the woman was interested. Amazingly, she asked for this water. Anyone would ask for this water. All sinners thirst. All humans have a basic need of what Jesus has to give. That is because all are afflicted by an illness, that of sin. This illness bites like a snake and it costs the sufferer your life. It comes with a parasite, your sinful flesh, and it makes you dizzy with thirst—constant thirst. The illness is sin, and that affliction gets you thirsting for all the wrong things. Hate, lies, gossip, adultery, drugs, violence, yes. But it even gets us thirsting for good things in order to make idols out of them. Food, career, health & wellness, safety, romance ... all disordered loves. We look to quench our thirst in all those things, but they do not.

It is surprising when someone defies all social barriers. It should not be surprising when the God of life and love wants to give to those who are in need, those who thirst, those who are constantly digging for something. He comes to diagnose us and He comes to treat us and cure us, just as He came for that woman at the well. He is the most basic need for our thirst, and only in Jesus does is our thirst satisfied. As Jesus preached to the crowds in Matthew 5:6, *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."*

2. Jesus satisfies

I don't just mean that as an easy answer. The reason I can say it's not just an easy answer is that Jesus got personal here, very personal. Jesus reached into the woman's relationship history and labelled it for what it was.

He seemed to abruptly ask this woman about her husband, and she sheepishly had to admit she wasn't married. This wouldn't be a big deal, except that she had a long history of trying to satisfy her thirst. She was having an affair and she had already been married five times. Jesus so completely pointed out her thirst here, but for a greater purpose. When He got personal, she tried to change the subject. But Jesus used that too. He brought her to the point of asking for prophecy, asking for a mountain, asking for the Messiah Himself.

Jesus gets so personal and up close. He presents to us the gospel to meet our personal, real-life needs. Jesus can sort it out on one hand: who is your crush; who you fell for; who didn't work out; what DID work out despite our best efforts. He could train out your relationship history just to prove He's been there all along ... and to prove He has loved you when others did or did not.

Jesus is the kind of God you could start to know and acknowledge and love.

Jesus is true God. He not only knows you in real life. He gives you real life. He reaches into your relationship history and only He can sort it out. He becomes the well of water worth drinking, worth living real life for.

Where are you digging wells? Your career? Is it satisfying? Does it conquer your family relationships and satisfy your soul and take away your sins? Whosoever drinks of that career water shall thirst again.

Where are you digging wells? The food you eat? Is it satisfying? Does it conquer your problems and satisfy your soul and take away your sins? Whosoever drinks of that career water shall thirst again.

Where are you digging wells? Your romance? Is it satisfying? Does it satisfy your soul and take away your sins and bubble over to eternal life? Whosoever drinks of that romantic water shall thirst again.

Where are you digging wells? Your earthly/ bodily safety? Is it satisfying? Does it conquer your sins and satisfy your soul and bubble over to eternal life? Whosoever drinks of that healthy, safe water shall thirst again.

Why don't you see the well that Jesus dug? Jesus thirsted a cosmic thirst for you and for me on the cross. It was one of His seven words. In Jesus' death there were no priests needed, no additional sacrifices need, no other substitutes, only Him. The time, the hour of His death was coming and had now come when all people would know the truth of His death and the payment of His soul. He was the Messiah who had come to quench her thirst. He is the I AM for you to drink deeply. His death bubbles over into your eternal life. Believe in Him and drink from Him deeply. Whosoever does shall never thirst again. Amen.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.