

The human body is sixty percent water. Every day what goes out needs to be replaced with about eight cups of water. Most people don't think about the number of cups though, they just drink when they're thirsty. After a morning run your water bottle provides the drink. After eating lunch you go to the sink for a drink. Middle of the afternoon, at supper, in the evening, before bed are all times for a drink. And this happens each day. Not a day goes by where you don't need to fill up the glass and take a drink of water.

Physical thirst is only quenched a little bit at a time. Every drink of water is followed by thirst for more. For many, their spiritual thirst operates the same way. It seems many more people are spiritual these days. They want some sort of spiritual experience. But when they get it many times it leaves them only wanting more. That spiritually thirsty feeling never goes away because their spiritual thirst isn't quenched.

The gospel this morning provides the story of one woman who didn't even know she was spiritually thirsty. Coming to the well to quench her physical thirst she met a man who claimed that he could help her with a spiritual thirst as well. What Jesus showed her and did for her is the same as he wants to do for us. So we listen in to their conversation as Jesus works to...

Quench your thirst for living water
Satisfies for eternal life
Comes from one source

He just asked her for a drink of water. Completely natural since they were next to a well, he had walked a great distance, and she was going to draw some water out. But this Samaritan recognized a Jew. Instead of getting him the water she asked him why he was talking with her. That was all Jesus needed for an opening. **"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."** So much meaning packed into one sentence. The gift of God, who it is that asks you, living water. Every word had spiritual application that was lost on the woman who still thought they were talking about the water in the well.

Living water, or running water, is viewed as better. Standing water can collect all sorts of bad things that can make it not good to drink. But Jesus wasn't talking about freshness. The living water he was going to offer her is what he offers to us. Living water is God's grace. It's the gift of God Jesus offers. The gift of God is really the one asking her for a drink. The living water is the gift of God which is Jesus. Jesus offers God's grace which takes us dead standing sinners and makes us living through the living water of what Jesus has done. Living water won't just quench your thirst for a short time either. **"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again...the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."** The living water Jesus gives satisfies for eternal life.

Jesus knew he had to shower this woman with gospel at first. But she still needed to know what Jesus was saving her from. So he pushed harder, now with the law. **"Go, call your husband and come back."** Now this conversation was deeply personal. Jesus knew what everyone in town probably already did too. Running from her past, hiding it, or downplaying it wouldn't help. She admits that she has no husband. The words weren't much, but Jesus heard her heart. Five previous marriages that likely ended in divorces and the man she was just shacking up with were causing her grief. She was living deep in sin but God's law cut through the darkness. She's not spiritually satisfied but now she knows it.

A certain electronics store has a series of commercials out that talk about the ongoing need for newer things. You buy the latest 3D HDTV, and suddenly there's a truck advertising 4D at the neighbor's house. You get the newest iPhone and suddenly a billboard claims a better cell phone. You purchase the nicest laptop and suddenly a newspaper ad makes you spit coffee because it shows a faster, slimmer, cooler laptop available soon. We purchase things to be satisfied, but the rush of something new only lasts so long. Eventually we have to be buying something new to get more good feelings. Sin does that to people. While it might feel good temporarily, it can't satisfy except for the moment. It certainly won't get us to eternal life.

Once the woman confessed her sin she knew God wouldn't want anything to do with her in her sinful condition. Eternal life was impossible. Examining your sins tells you the same thing. Eternal life is impossible with sinful hearts. But remember where Jesus started with this woman. Remember the gift of God, the living water that wells up to eternal life? Jesus offers you a drink of this living water. It's the good news of a Savior who stood in your place under God's complete law and kept it. He wasn't crushed though he died. It looked like he lost, but in death he won. The living water of God's love is guaranteed to satisfy for heaven and the eternity that awaits you there.

If you look on bottled water it tells you the source for their water. Those who don't drink bottled water might joke that though it looks like it was bottled at some mountain spring it probably was bottled at a tap in some factory miles from a mountain. This of course is to say something about the quality of the water from the different sources. The living water Christ offered to this woman gave eternal life. That quality would be compromised if she tried to get it from a different source. Living water that quenches people's thirst comes from only one source.

When the woman responded that she could see Jesus was a prophet she also said, **“Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”** Was she avoiding the hard topic of her sinful past by talking about worship principles? Or was it possibly something else? Think about her situation. She’s just been crushed by the law. She’s stumbling for some way to get right with God, but she doesn’t know where to go. She’s hoping that this prophet can just point her in the right direction. If Jesus would just direct her to the right mountain she felt she could go and make peace with God.

When you’re stumbling under the weight of your sins, looking to get right with God, what source will you go to? Is it to the comfort and safety of this church building or our worship style? Do you run to a listing of your good deeds? Are you looking across the aisle comparing yourself to someone else you think is worse off than you are in their sins? If we’re trying to pump forgiveness from God or a right relationship with him out of the wrong source we’ll fail.

Let’s listen to Jesus clear it up for this woman. **“Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.”** Location isn’t as important as heart. And what is said or where membership resides is not nearly as important as the very first two words Jesus spoke to her about this, **“Believe me.”** Jesus made it clear that people are only right with God from one source, the Messiah. This woman knew the Messiah, she was waiting for him. But the time had come, Jesus revealed his true identity. He was the Messiah.

For us to be right with God comes from one source. Jesus, the Messiah, is that one source. He alone can remove our sinful thoughts of finding safety in a worship style. He alone can lift away the sinful attempts by us to let our good deeds save. He alone can cut out the sinful comparisons that we do. Christ is the only source that saves. He assures that the **“promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace.”** It is the pardoning free grace in Christ that makes us acceptable in God’s sight and provides the one source to quench our spiritual thirst.

You will spend the rest of your life trying to quench your physical thirst. Every day you’ll drink more water. But how will you quench the spiritual thirst? Spend your time trying for more of everything just to think that you’re satisfied? Come to know Christ the way this woman did. Understand your lost condition for eternity without the living water of the gospel. Recognize that trying to follow many sources offers no hope for forgiveness or salvation. Listen and be convinced that Jesus is the Savior of the world, for all people, and that only he can quench our thirst for living water that saves.