

Series: The Gospel of John

Day 4: Drink living water and overflow in worship and witnessing

Prayer

Let us pray

O God, You are the only source of life-giving water. I confess Lord, that we are constantly trying to quench our thirst at other wells than at the living water that You offer. We try to quench our thirst with money and goods. We drink at wrong relationships. We sometimes literally drink from the wrong bottle...

But I also thank you Lord, for the beautiful memory I have of this passage. When I presented it in Zimbabwe, the people associated with it, because they do not have running water. They still collect water at the well daily. And You quenched their thirst. They are now streams of living water...

But I know Lord, today you have an appointment with someone who is thirsty today. Someone who is on his way to fetch water from a useless well, or bought bottled water, or even a bottlestore... Let this message reach that person today Lord and quench that thirst.

Amen

Introduction

We are busy with our series of 21 devotions from the Gospel of John and today we are at John 4.

The first three days

In the first three days we discussed parts from the first three chapters. We started on day one and John told us why he wrote the book:

He writes about **signs and miracles**

- so that you can **believe Jesus is the Christ**
- so that **you can have life.**

The book started by saying that in the beginning was the **Word**: Jesus, is God's final and decisive message for you. This we saw on day 1.

The second day we saw He is truly God from eternity to eternity, but He became flesh for us.

On the third day we saw to believe in Him we need to be born again. We looked at the example of Nikodemus in chapter 3.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 continues with another example. This time not someone who knows the law and his Bible, but a Samaritan women. We start to read in chapter 4 from verse 3:

[Jesus] he left Judea and departed again for Galilee.

4 And he had to pass through Samaria.

*5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar,
near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.*

Verse 4 says that he had to pass through Samaria. “Had to pass through”? The background to this is that the Jews never passed through Samaria. If you wanted to go from Nazareth to Jerusalem, you would have taken this route. It was about 150km, so if you walk 15km per day, it would take you 10 days to walk there. But there is a shorter way, straight through here. But this part is Samaria, and the Jews did not travel through Samaria.

The background to this is that the Israelites divided into two kingdoms. The 10 tribes were called the northern kingdom and the two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, the Southern Kingdom. The Assyrians took the Northern Kingdom into exile. With the exile some Israelites were left and other nations were brought to this area. They started to live together and it became a mixed nation, almost a half-breed nation in Samaria. Some of the original religion remained, but it was also a mixed religion that they followed here. A few hundred years later the Southern Kingdom also went into exile and when they returned, they did not want to be associated with this half-breed nation. They looked down on them and didn’t even walk through their land.

So if it is written here that Jesus had to pass Samaria...no Jew ever had to pass through Samaria... it had to be important.

6 Jacob's well was there;

*so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey,
was sitting beside the well.*

It was about the sixth hour.

7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water.

Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”

8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

So if they tell us it is at the sixth hour (12:00 in the afternoon), it is strange that the Samaritan Women went to get water at that time of the day. They usually came in groups early in the morning before it was too hot. But she came alone, because she didn’t want to walk with the other women. And Jesus sent His disciples to town to buy food, so that they could be alone for this encounter He planned with this woman.

9 The Samaritan woman said to him,

“How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?”

(For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

She confirms the background we just discussed.

10 *Jesus* 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 The woman said to him,
"Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep.

She doesn't understand what living water means yet. She only sees that Jesus doesn't have a bucket or anything that could keep water. How can He draw water?

Where do you get that living water?
12 Are you greater than our father Jacob?
He gave us the well
and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

Of course Jesus is greater, so he answers:

13 *Jesus* said to her,
"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,
14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him
will never be thirsty again.
The water that I will give him
will become in him a spring of water welling up
to eternal life."

In John 7 we see the theme of living water again:

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

He told this woman if you drink the living water it will well up in you. Streams of living water will flow. And he explains what it means in John 7:

39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39)

You who thirsts. You who are listening here. Jesus also invites you. He says in Isaiah 55:

1 "Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price...

*3 Incline your ear, and **come to me**;
hear, that your soul **may live**; (Isaiah 55:1,3)*

*15 The woman said to him,
"Sir, **give me this water**,
so that I will not **be thirsty**
or **have to come here to draw water.**"*

She still doesn't understand. She only thinks that by drinking this water she would never have to come to the well...

*16 Jesus said to her,
"Go, call your husband, and **come here.**"*

It seems a bit strange. She is talking about the water and then He says go call your husband. But Jesus knows what she actually thirsts for. Where she often drinks water. Therefore, He asks her to go call her husband to show her where she tries to quench her thirst.

*17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband."
Jesus said to her,
"You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';
18 for you **have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband.**
What you have said is true."*

*19 The woman said to him,
"Sir, I perceive that **you are a prophet.**"*

Now she tries to avoid the problem, the thirst she has and moves the conversation in another direction.

*20 Our fathers **worshiped** on this mountain,
but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to **worship.**"*

And Jesus does not say anything more about her core problem, her thirst. He follows her direction in the conversation.

*21 Jesus said to her,
"Woman, **believe me**, the hour is coming
when neither **on this mountain**
nor in Jerusalem will you **worship the Father...**"*

*23 But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when the **true worshipers will worship**
the Father in spirit and truth,
for **the Father is seeking such people to worship him.***

*24 God is spirit,
and those who **worship him***

must worship in spirit and truth.”

He leads her to true worship. He tells her that true worship is through the Spirit. And that is what He told Nikodemus as well: He said the Spirit needs to be in you to change you. He tells her that true worship is through the Spirit.

25 *The woman* said to him,
“*I know that Messiah is coming*
(he who is called Christ).
When he comes, he will tell us all things.”

26 Jesus said to her,
“*I who speak to you am he.*”

And then we see her reaction, when she realizes she found the living water.

28 So *the woman* left her *water jar*
and went away into town and said to the people, 29 “*Come, see...*

Later in this chapter we read:

39 *Many Samaritans* from that town
believed in him
because of the woman's testimony,

So, this woman received the living water, the Spirit lived in her and became like a fountain and water welled up in her. She testified and told others and they came to faith.

Conclusion

Let us conclude:

We saw He had to pass through Samaria
because he had an appointment with a woman from Samaria came to draw water
And for the thirsty women he had a message:

Ask,
and He would have given you
living water

She did not understand and said
You have *nothing to draw water with*, and the well is deep
He answered:

The water that I give
will become a spring of water
welling up to eternal life

She still did not understand and thought it could help her not to come to the well anymore:

Sir, give me this water

So Jesus showed her, her real thits:

for you have had five husbands...

And just as Jesus called her, we are called in Isaiah 55:

Come, everyone who thirsts

And later in the book of John, we will see that this spring of water welling up is the Spirit filling us:

Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. This he said about the Spirit

And with Him inside us we can worship in spirit and thruth.

It happens when we truly see Jesus for who He is

Woman, believe me, the hour is coming... and is now here,

when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth

And when we are filled in that way, we overflow and go out to tell others:

Come, see...

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him

So our theme for today:

Ask for living water

Receive a spring, welling up to eternal life

Worship the Father in spirit and truth

Witness so that others also believe

Or shorter:

Drink living water

and overflow

in worship

and witnessing

Reflection

Today's passage is again filled with so many things to learn of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Take some time and read the passages again and write down what you learned. What have you learned about your own thirst?

Thanksgiving

When you reflect what you wrote down, what thoughts of gratitude is the Holy Spirit stirring up in your heart? Where to does it want to overflow? Write down one, very specific, thing that you are going to do differently during today.

Prayer

I will start with a short prayer and when I say Amen, you can continue praying as the Spirit guides you:

O Father, we hear Your cry: Come, all who thirst, come and drink!

Do what only You can do today. Just like in Zimbabwe where Pastor Joshua's fountain brings together 400 people in Bible study groups.

O Son, Jesus Christ, our Messiah, before You stands a woman, a woman who is seeking and thirsty. A man on his knees before You, like the deer in Psalm 42 without water, screaming and thirsting for its thirst to be quenched...

The time is now, O Lord. They want to worship You in Spirit and truth. In yesterday's message, they heard they had to look up to the cross. Let them hear how Your Son had to cry out on that cross with a dry throat: I am thirsty! So that they never have to be thirsty again. Let that fountain well up within them, O Lord. Fill them with the Living Water, yes the Holy Spirit that will overflow to all around them.

Yes, Lord, let their testimony then quench the thirst of many other people.

Amen