Spiritual Dehydration!

I. INTRO:

A. One who drinks from the wells of the world will thirst again, for sinful pleasures never satisfy. “Love, success, wealth, fame - these were but a few of the countless springs at which men had stooped to drink, only to rise from them to find that they offered no lasting inward satisfaction, no enduring personal fulfillment.” (Zane Hodges)

2. Jesus offers another drink! Not merely for time, but for eternity!
3. So vital, so transforming, so satisfying; with just one sip of faith, our deepest thirst is quenched!

II. SPIRITUAL DEHYDRATION!

A. LIQUID WATER VS. LIVING WATER! (1-15)

B. (1-3) Jesus departs to avoid a popularity contest w/John’s ministry, Jesus turned to Galilee. But on the way He had an important appointment.

C. (6) Wearied - Jesus truly human. {He experienced weariness, hunger, thirst}

D. (7) Here His unsuspecting appointment arrives at a Samaritan well (1/2 m. out of town). A thirsty sun-parched woman, carrying a water-pot on her head.

E. Women normally drew water at dawn & dusk, the cooler hours of the day. It was time to visit & exchange news.
   1. But here we are at noon, the hottest time of the day, which hints to her reputation. Maybe braving the brazen sun to avoid the searing stares of the more reputable.

F. She comes bearing an empty waterpot, a telling symbol of her parched, barren heart.

G. Give Me a drink - The One who spoke forth Niagara; the One who shaped the Nile w/his finger nail in the sand; the One who could bring forth gallons of wine...now sits thirsty?

H. (9) How is it a Jew talks to me? - Most Jews looked down on Samaritans because:
   1. Ethnicity - 1/2 breed; Assyrian invasion 720bc would intermarry to cause loss of racial purity
   2. Religiously - only held to the 1st 5 books of Moses; also, different style of worship.
   3. Geographically - Most Jews went out of their way to avoid Samaria (3 days to cut across vs. 6 days around the Jordan)
   4. But not Jesus, Samaria was part of His mission.
I. (10) Jesus doesn’t always answer our **questions**...but our **needs**!

J. He will give her living water if she does what? Just “asks”!

K. (11) Nothing to draw with, & the well is deep - She was right. Today it is **75’ deep**.
   1. This of course before it was glamorized & enshrined in **marble**, then wrapped w/a **cave** around it, topped off w/a **Greek Orthodox church** on top of it.
   2. This well is actually **supplied 2 ways**, through underground sources (making it a true well, & by percolated surface water)\(^1\)
   3. Mr. Jesus Sir, you have no **bucket** or **rope**!

L. She tries to mildly put Jesus in His place w/her “who-do-you-think-you are” question.
   1. Jesus **patiently appeals** to her immediate desire for **physical water**.
   2. In doing so He appeals to her **greater**, though **less obvious**, **spiritual thirst**.

M. (13) **Will thirst again** - Love, success, wealth, fame **but a few** of the **countless springs** at which men had stooped to drink.
   1. Imagine a handful of stickers that read “**will thirst again!**” & placing them everywhere you went. On the **TV** set; on **bars & pubs**; on bottles of **alcohol**; on a **joint**; on a **prostitute**; on the **desk** of the business exec who made it to the top... “**you will thirst again!**"
   2. It seems like we all have to “**test the waters**” ourselves though.
      a) No, we can’t learn from **Adam & Eve** who tried the **forbidden fruit** that didn’t satisfy...it made them thirst again!
      b) **Samson** saw a woman in **Timnah** (“go get her for me”); took a **Gaza strip** harlot; then **Delilah**...and still died a thirsty man.
      c) We don’t know if **Solomon** ever quenched his thirst? (700 wives; 300 concubines)

N. (14) **Fountain of water** - Here is the **love of God** coming down like the **Amazon River** rushing down to water **one flower**!
   1. Rev 21:6 I will give of the **fountain of the water** of life freely to him who **thirsts**.

O. Well(11,12) a man made cistern; **Fountain**(14) a running spring.

P. (15) She wants **it**. She recognizes her **thirst**. But now **sin** must be dealt with.
   1. **Before the cleansing water must come the confessing daughter!**
   2. **No conversion w/o conviction!**

\(^1\) The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible; pg.388
Q. Feeling the conversation is beginning to meander down a **dead-end path**, Jesus points to her personal life. [He pulls out a **full length mirror**, forcing her to take a good hard look at herself]

1. Like the **sobering reflection** that greets you when you first wake up!
2. The woman’s glimpse of herself makes her flush w/embarrassment.
   a) She’ll try to **tilt** the mirror away, but Jesus makes her look **head-on** to face the emptiness of her heart.

R. We all know the story of the **Good Samaritan**...this is the story of the **Bad Samaritan**!

S. **THE BAD SAMARITAN!** (16-18)

T. Oh, I guess **living together** doesn’t constitute marriage!

1. But we love each other! It feels right! We were married “in the sight of God”!
   Oh! Sure doesn’t seem like it here. [Is that you? come talk to us, we’d love to help]

U. Allow God to **expose** you & **cleanse** you!

V. **THE CLEVER SAMARITAN!** (19-26)

W. (19,20) Christ’s **sharp perception** pricks her conscience...squirming, she shifts to more comfortable conversation. [Let’s argue religion technique]

1. What about the heathen in Africa? What about them Pygmy’s in Pygmy-land
   How can a good God, allow suffering & evil? What about creation & evolution?
   Sprinkling or immersion? Wine or grape-juice? King James or Living Bible?
   a) This is her **Red Herring** that she hopes will hide her blemished soul, from His penetrating gaze. So she drags a **smoked herring** across her trail to cover up her scent, as they use to in England to throw off tracking dogs from the fox.
   b) However, this **Vixen** wont get away from this **Terrific Tracker** though!

X. (21-24) Jesus **contrasts** real worship with **ritual** worship!

Y. Here we see the **intent** of Jesus’ ministry: to bring people to a **realization** of the state of their life; in order to lead them to **repentance**; & a **new life** in him; where they would **honor** & **worship God**; in **Spirit** & **Truth** daily.

Z. (23) (Message) But the time is coming - it has, in fact, come - when **what you’re called** will not matter and **where you go to worship** will not matter. “It’s **who you are and the way you live** that count before God. Your worship must **engage your spirit** in the pursuit of **truth**. That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are **simply** and **honestly** themselves **before Him** in their worship.

AA. Not the **Location** of worship but the **Object** of worship. Not **Where** you worship but **How** you worship. Not just **How** you worship but ultimately **Who** you worship!
1. **Q:** Why should we do Missions & Evangelism? **A:** Because the Father is seeking such to worship him! {Let’s give Him what He deserves!}

2. Sincere & Spiritual Worship = the submission of all our nature to God; It’s the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose.²

BB. You don’t need to find God in a special place, true worship finds Him in every place!

   1. True worship is not a certain place, a certain time in the week, or a certain format. True worship is a relationship.

CC.(25) Now Jesus brings the conversation to such a burning focus that her very soul is on the verge of igniting! (Swindoll)

DD. Look at her progress, she saw Jesus as: a Jew(9); a Sir(11); greater than Jacob(12); a prophet(19); Messiah(25); Christ(29).

EE.(26) Now she knows! - see vs.10(if you knew...)

   1. There wasn’t too many people who received this straight of an answer.

FF. Then right at this dramatic cliff-hanging moment, guess who shows up with the burgers & fries? The disciples in a very awkward situation for everyone - well, except for Jesus.

GG. **THE FOCUSED SAMARITAN!** (27-30)

   1. Earlier Jesus turned tepid water into the most festive of wines; He now takes the emptiest of lives & fills it full. (Swindoll; John; pg.57)

   1. The woman left her waterpot - The jar she came to fill stands empty, but the heart she had not come to fill now overflowing with living water! (Hodges; pg.18)

   1. He freed a Woman from habitual immorality;
      He freed Worship from the limitation of place.
      He desires to free you today from a dehydrated, parched, barren, sin filled life.

II. He can do that with your life too!

   1. No matter how stagnant the water...no matter how empty the pot.
   2. All it takes is one sip of faith to be spiritually hydrated!!!

   a) He freed a Woman from habitual immorality;
      He freed Worship from the limitation of place.
      He desires to free you today from a dehydrated, parched, barren, sin filled life.

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² Shepherds notes; John; pg.26.