

“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)

1. **Read** - Eccl.2:1-11.
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 **quickenings 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)

HH. **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. **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)

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*.

² Shepherds notes; John; pg.26.