

But Whoever Drinks
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John 4:7-26

Have you had any experience with the effects of dehydration? What are the symptoms? It's particularly dangerous in the elderly. As caregivers we learned this first hand. "The human body is roughly 75 percent water. Without this water, it cannot survive."¹ Severe dehydration is a matter of life and death, but even mild, chronic dehydration (though not life threatening) can diminish our quality of life. Many people walk around without realizing they are physically dehydrated. They just accept the nagging symptoms, aches, pains, and fogginess not knowing that some clear, cool water can improve their physical health.

The point: Just as physical dehydration is a problem, the bigger problem is "spiritual dehydration." Lack of physical water is a life and death issue. Lack of the "living water" Jesus gives is a matter of ETERNAL life and death.

Sadly, because we were out for New Years Day we missed John 3 and Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. To set the tone for today's text let's just look back at **John 3:16 & 17 (ESV) — 16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

In today's text Jesus demonstrated the truth of those verses. What seemed like a chance encounter with a social "outcast" makes us realize that with Christ there are no chance encounters or outcasts. Living water is available to all.

It was the heat of the day, when Jesus sat at a well in Samaria. He was waiting for his disciples to return with food but really waiting on a divine appointment:

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.) **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.) **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. 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.” **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.” **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.”

- What a way to open a conversation! Jesus’ request was more shocking than it might seem. He had no bucket or vessel yet He asked her for water. It would be like one of us sitting down on a public bench and a stranger asks for a sip out of our personal water bottle.
- She was a Samaritan and a woman with a checkered past. He was a Jewish man and spiritual teacher. He was breaking several social norms just talking to her but certainly no Jewish “rabbi” would drink out of her bucket.
- Jesus shifted from a request to an offer. *“If you knew Who I am and what I can give you would ask ME for living water that quenches your thirst forever.”*
- In verse 15 she says, *“I’ll take THAT kind of water!”*
- John MacArthur believes it was a sarcastic or cynical reply. *“No more thirst? No more hauling water? Sure I’ll take some of that water!”*
- Magical water that quenches your thirst forever? Where do I sign?
- What a convenience, what a luxury, what satisfaction!
- Question: When people indulge in things like over-spending, over-eating, self-medication, non-stop entertainment, and the pursuit of sex, what are we really looking for? How did the Rolling Stones describe that pursuit?

- Human beings are wired to look for satisfaction but Jesus never said, *“Follow me and I’ll make you rich, attractive, smart or famous.”*
- Instead, Jesus said, *“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”ⁱⁱ “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”ⁱⁱⁱ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.^{iv} Now, He promised “living water.”*
- Why were metaphors like water, bread, and rest so powerful?
- If you were stranded and starving in a desert with a pocket full of cash how much would you pay for food and water?
- We need food and water to live; we need living water to live forever!
- Jesus didn’t promise just a cup, a bottle, or a gallon, He promised a “spring.” What is this overflowing internal “wellspring”?
- It’s not “what” but “Who.”
- **John 7:37–39 (ESV) — 37** ...Jesus stood up and cried out, “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.’ ” **39** Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive...
- This bubbling, clear, never-ending source of spiritual satisfaction is His Spirit living inside those who have trusted Christ as Savior and Lord.
- Before the Spirit can satisfy, He has to convict of sin.

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

- We’re all thirsty for physical water but we don’t realize our thirst for living water until we understand our broken condition due to sin.
- Jesus didn’t berate her for her situation. He just pointed to the facts.

- You and I can share the good news of the living water but only Jesus can convict someone of their sin. His knowledge of her life got her attention.

19 The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. **20** Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”

- When Jesus brought up her sin she wanted to talk religion. Was this changing the subject or a diversion? Perhaps. When we share our faith often the person wants to debate religion.
- Perhaps instead though this was a sincere question of someone who sought truth. Either way, Jesus acknowledged her questions but didn’t get sidetracked.

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. **22** You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. **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.”

- Jesus told her what we all need to know: His Father seeks people to worship Him and will give us His Spirit so we can worship Him anywhere and any time. That is the definition of “true worship.”

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.”

- Look at the progression of this encounter: A casual conversation, a controversial offer, a promise of eternal satisfaction, a supernatural conviction of sin, an invitation to a relationship with the Father, and a confirmation that Jesus IS Who He says He is.

- What was her response? Verse 28: “*Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did.*” Verse 39: Many Samaritans believed because of her testimony.

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- It’s possible to go through life in pain and discomfort not knowing the problem is chronic physical dehydration that can be solved by water.
- Many are going through life looking for some kind of satisfaction that will numb their pain and quench the thirst in their souls.
- Their problem is spiritual dehydration that can only be solved by the “living water” of salvation.
- Our job is to point people toward the “living water” of salvation in Christ.
- Only He can open their eyes to Who He really is and that He is their source for eternal satisfaction.
- If we are followers of Christ we need to beware of becoming dehydrated and dry in our relationship with Him. Through time in His presence and His word we can keep the living water flowing from the well of His Spirit in us.
- This week let’s be open to opportunities to point people to the well of living water!

ⁱ https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/153363#_noHeaderPrefixedConte

ⁱⁱ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 6:35). Wheaton, IL:

ⁱⁱ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 6:35). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

ⁱⁱⁱ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 8:12). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

^{iv} [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 11:28). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.