



19 Minutes With the Messiah

The Living Water

(John 4:4-19,25,26,28,29)

¹Now [Jesus] had to go through Samaria. ²So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ³Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁴When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁵The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) ⁶Jesus answered her, "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." ⁷"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ⁸Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

⁹Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁰but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹²He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." ¹³"I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.

¹⁴The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is quite true." ¹⁵"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. . . ."

¹⁶The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ¹⁷Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

¹⁸Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ¹⁹"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

1. What does this account reveal about the natures and unique person of Christ? Why is this so important to us?

2. Why was the Samaritan woman surprised that Jesus had addressed her?

___ She was a Samaritan, and Jews did not associate with Samaritans.

___ She was an "adulteress" and an outcast from society.

___ She was a stranger to Jesus.

___ She was a woman.

3. Complete this sentence: If I were without a faucet in my home, I would rather drink water from a mountain brook than from a tub in my backyard because . . .

4. How did the Samaritan woman understand (or misunderstand) Jesus' words about "water" and "living water"?

Jesus' Body as the Temple

The Living Water

New Cloth

New Wine in Old Wineskins

The Salt of the Earth

The Light of the World

The House Built on the Rock

The Two Debtors

The Sower

The Weeds

The Growing Seed

The Mustard Seed

The Yeast

The Hidden Treasure

The Fine Pearl

The Net

I AM the Bread of Life

Becoming Childlike

The Unmerciful Servant

I AM the Light of the World

I AM the Gate

I AM the Good Shepherd

The Good Samaritan

The Friend at Midnight

The Rich Fool

The Wise Servant

The Barren Fig Tree

The Great Banquet

The Lost Sheep

The Lost Coin

The Lost Son

The Shrewd Manager

The Rich Man and Lazarus

The Unworthy Servants

I AM the Resurrection and the Life

The Persistent Widow

The Pharisee and

the Tax Collector

The Workers in the Vineyard

The Ten Minas

The Two Sons

The Wicked Tenants

The Wedding Feast

The Fig Tree

The Householder

The Ten Virgins

The Talents

The Sheep and the Goats

A Lesson About Foot Washing

I AM the Way

I AM the True Vine

The Woman in Labor

I AM the Alpha and the Omega

5. What is the “living water . . . welling up to eternal life” of which Jesus is speaking? Who leads thirsty souls to drink of this water? By what means?

6. Jesus said, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him” (John 7:37,38). How did the flowing stream of living water become evident in the Samaritan woman’s life? What can we do when the stream of living water in us begins to clog?

7. What thought does the following passage add to this account?
“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city” (Revelation 22:1,2).

For Further Study

8. For what spiritual things are people thirsting today? How does Jesus alone quench the thirst?

9. In this account, Jesus provides a pattern for personal evangelism work. Note the progression in Jesus’ conversation as he reaches out to the Samaritan with the gospel. Note too the change in the woman’s conversation.

10. Some churches have baptismal fonts with water that flows continually. Explain this practice.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are greater than Jacob because you give living water, and all who drink of you will never thirst again. By the Spirit’s power, cause the living water in us to become a flood unto others, so that many more may quench their thirst at your well of salvation. Amen.

Helps:

(1) Jesus has a dual nature; he is both true man (verse 6) and true God (verse 18). As such, he is fully qualified to be our Savior—one whose life and sacrificial death counted for all people.

(2) All four are correct. Nonetheless, Jesus, seeing a lost soul, overcomes any prejudice and begins a conversation.

(3) In addition to being cooler, the brook would provide flowing, living water that refreshes and gives life rather than water that is stagnant.

(4) In both cases, the woman thought that Jesus was speaking about physical water. Although skeptical about Jesus' ability to produce water that flowed from a spring or brook, she was nonetheless intrigued because such water would be preferable to that drawn from a well.

(5) The "living water" is Jesus, or to be more precise, the "eternal life" found in Jesus alone. This "water" is a gift from God. To "drink" this water means to believe in Christ as Savior. The Holy Spirit calls souls thirsting for salvation to faith in Jesus through the means of grace, the gospel in Word and sacraments.

(6) The woman raced to town, leaving her water jug behind. Although she may have been an outcast in that town, her budding faith in Jesus as Savior compelled her to share the good news with others. As the Spirit strengthens faith through Word and sacrament, those who have received the living water will share the water more and more with other thirsting souls.

(7) In heaven, God's people will be sustained eternally by the never-ending flow of God's grace.

(8) Because God has "set eternity in the hearts of men" (Ecclesiastes 3:11), all people thirst for a life that has no end. In addition, people thirst for fulfillment in life, freedom from guilt, peace of mind and conscience, purpose to daily living, hope for the future, etc. Christ Jesus is the world's only Savior and answer to spiritual thirst.

(9) Jesus leads the woman from a conversation about physical matters (a need for water) to spiritual matters (a need for living water) to identifying himself as the Savior. The woman follows Jesus in his conversation.

(10) "Living" or "flowing" fonts reflect the truth that through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the Holy Spirit imparts faith in Jesus, and where there is faith, there is also forgiveness, life, and salvation. The water of Baptism is indeed "living" water.