

Sermon Outline

“LIFE IN HIS NAME”: THE PURSUIT OF WHOLENESS AND THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

THE FOUNTAIN IN YOU (JOHN 4:11-15)

I. Introduction

II. “Where Do You Get That Living Water?” (Jn 4:11)

- A. The woman doesn't get what Jesus is saying.
- B. Like Nicodemus, she wonders how someone can be born again when he is old (cf. Jn 3:4): “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”

III. “Are You Greater Than Our Father Jacob?” (Jn 4:12)

- A. “Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock” (v 12).
- B. The woman would not have said what she did if this conversation had taken place at another well. But this was a special well!
- C. For Jesus to say what he did, that's like saying you can do better than Jacob.

IV. The Water that Quenches all Thirst (Jn 4:13-14)

- A. Jesus answers the woman's question in v 12 with a “Yes.”
- B. But notice how Jesus actually guides her to this conclusion: “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again” (vv 13, 14).
- C. We know what Jesus means.
 - 1. Whoever drinks from Jacob's well (or any other well for that matter) will get thirsty again.
 - 2. There is no source of sustenance in this world that can sustain a person's being forever.
 - 3. When Jesus says, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,” he is undoing every idolatrous *hope* we have in our accomplishments.

V. Broken Cisterns

- A. The Gospel can be offensive. It doesn't give us anything to "do."
- B. What well are you depending on today? What water are you drinking from today? What "waters" are you actively and consciously depending on to quench your thirst when this world turns up the heat?
 - 1. Your "well" is whatever you have been taught to trust in to gain the approval of others and the approval of ultimate Reality.
 - Jeremiah 2:13: "for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water."

VI. The Spring of Water in You (Jn 4:14)

- A. When we finally realize that the stuff we've been living on isn't water but soda (or worse), then we are ready to turn to Jesus for help.
- B. When this Water comes, rabbi Yeshua says that we "will never be thirsty again."
 - 1. Jesus is not referring primarily to physical thirst.
 - 2. He's talking about...
 - a. deep-seated insecurities that shape our responses to life (the ugly fruit of prayerlessness, doubt, anxiety, lust, etc.).
 - b. the gnawing guilt of our consciences before the Law of God (or even man's laws).
- C. Why would we never be thirsty again? Because, Jesus says, "The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (v 15).

VII. Jesus, the End of Your Quest

- A. Can you imagine the implications of having the Water of Life in you?
 - 1. It means that whatever your Quest in life is—whatever the Big Thing that your life has been about—that can now come to an end.
 - 2. The Fountain of Life has been found. He has come to you. He lives in you.
- B. This truth speaks/works first on your internal programming as a human being (cf. Lk 6:45). It's your value system as an individual that determines how you see people and how you treat them.
- C. If the Fountain of Life is in us...
 - 1. We need not choose fear ever again.
 - 2. We need not rest on our laurels, on how well we perform.

3. We need not get water from other wells ever again.
—We can enjoy the things of this earth. But we can also hold them with an open palm and let them go.
- D. Even if we try to get water from other wells, the Fountain of Life does not leave us. He is here to stay, because the price has already been paid. Jesus has fulfilled the Law and earned heaven for us.
- E. The Spring keeps on giving until every corner of our beings is flooded with his life-giving Presence.
 - Romans 8:11: “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

Questions for Reflection

1. Was there anything in particular about today’s sermon that blessed and encouraged you?
2. Was there anything that you disagree with or found difficult to accept?
3. Based on Jeremiah 2:13, how should we think of idolatry?
4. What is the significance of the woman’s statement: “Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock” (v 12)? Why would she be offended by what Jesus said?
5. How does Jesus respond to the woman’s statement in v 12?
6. “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again” (vv 13, 14). How does this statement help us to (a) see more clearly the limitations of our various sources of life and (b) the fulfilment that we have in Jesus?
7. Jesus says, “The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” What does this statement mean? Who is the Water that Jesus gives (cf. Jn 7:37-39)? How does this truth encourage or challenge you today?
8. What well are you depending on today? What water are you drinking from today?