

John Ch 4:1-26

“A Divine Drink”

Rev 7 Tells us in regards to those tribulations saints, those individuals who refuse to bow the knee to compromise once they've surrendered to Christ (the rapture having taken place) having endured the heat, and the suffering of that present age and being martyred for their faith that, *“They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”* Rev 7:16-17

I bring that up not because our text today deals with the tribulation, or the rapture, or things of that nature, but rather because we see in John Ch 4, the Lamb of God leading a woman who finds herself in utter desperation to “Living fountains of waters.” It's an episode that we're all quite familiar with commonly acknowledged as, or referred to as, “The woman at the well.” It's a ch in which we find Jesus *weary*, yet offering *refreshment*, *asking* for a drink, yet *offering* torrents of Living waters. and As F.B. Meyer observed this wellhead becomes a pulpit from which Jesus addresses all who wearily seek after life and joy and blessedness, bidding them, or calling them to Himself.

So as we prepare to plunge headlong into ch 4 we recall that Jesus was there ministering in Judea in much the same manner as was J.B. in that He was baptizing people unto repentance by means of His disciples. and There began to be this ere of competition between Jesus and John regarding how many was following who, now neither Jesus nor John promoted what was happening in that way, as a matter of fact they sought to defuse that mentality. Jesus wasn't the competition *to* John's ministry; He was the completion *of* John's ministry. But be that as it may there was some confusion there that was beginning to peak the interest of the Pharisees. Not so much the “competition” of it all (that in reality never existed), but they were concerned about anything that seemed to be beyond their grasp of control. and So we read in Vs 1

Vs1-3

One thing that we note as we go through the gospel of John is that Jesus most definitely moved according to a divine timetable. and Though the Pharisees will become a most vehement enemy of the Lord, it's not time yet for the Lord to be engaged by them in a hostile manner. Apparently they weren't too thrilled about all the buzz taking place there in Judea near Jerusalem about what was happening in the life of Jesus and how many people were beginning to follow Him and so rather than engage in conflict, Jesus just left. and However subtle it may be, there is a point to be made there and then we'll move on, there is a time when we do well to stand our ground and defend our position.

Then there are other times when we do well to simply humble ourselves and remove ourselves from a potentially hostile environment. Whether that be a heated environment between me and my spouse, or wasting time arguing with someone about the gospel who doesn't want to hear it anyway or whatever.

The bible tells us, “*The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.*” Prov 17:14 and Again, “*It is honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel.*” Prov 20:3 Jesus put it like this, “*Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*” Matt 10:16 and So as the old song says, “You got to know when to hold em’ know when to fold em’, know when to walk away, and know when to run.” Use wisdom in your dealings with others and just understand there are times that it’s wise to just walk away, and that’s what Jesus is doing here, rather than whipping everything up into a frenzy, He just walks away. and We read that He departed again to Galilee, which means that He was moving from the south towards the north.

Vs4

Now if you were to look at the map in the back of your bible (if your bible has maps), then you would discover that actually to get from Judea to Galilee, the shortest and most direct route would be right through Samaria. But no “good” Jew would ever go through Samaria on his destination to anywhere, but rather would cross over the Jordan and go out and around Samaria on his way to Galilee, why?

Well, we might say there was a bit of an ethnic issue; the Samaritans were ½ Jew, ½ gentile. To keep the long story short when the 10 northern tribes of Israel were carried away into captivity by the Assyrians, of those who were left behind the Assyrians sent some of their people down to Israel where they began to intermingle and intermarry with the Israelites that evaded captivity. The results of these intermarriages was the Samaritans, and not being able to trace their lineage, and being ½ gentile, the Jews despised them. They barred them from Temple worship, wouldn’t allow them to be apart of the feasts in Jerusalem, they just had nothing to do with each other. Now the Samaritans still adhered to the 5 books of Moses, but since they weren’t allowed to be apart of what went on in Jerusalem, they (over the years) began to modify their keepings of the record. So that instead of the ark landing on Mt Ararat, they changed it to Mt Gerizim, instead of Ab offering Isaac on Mt Moriah, he offered him on, Mt Gerizim, and so instead of seeking to worship on Mt Zion with the Jews, they built their temple on, Mt Gerizim.

So there was some real tension between these 2 groups of people and a Jew would avoid an encounter with a Samaritan at virtually any cost. That’s why when John writes this, when you understand the background and the relationship between these 2 groups of people and you read, “He needed to go through Samaria” it becomes more than, “Yeah, if you want to get to Galilee you need to go through Samaria.” This takes on a whole different nuance because generally a Jew would avoid Samaria like the plague.

But this word, “Needed” here speaks of being, “Bound”, or “Tied”, in other words there was no place else He could go, it was essential that He get *to*, and go *through* Samaria. He’s being led by and driven the Holy Spirit, there was a divine appointment awaiting Him there and it was vital, in fact non-negotiable that this encounter take place. He needed to go through Samaria, because He *was needed* in Samaria, and I love this picture because it’s just another picture of Jesus coming to seek and to save that which was lost. The social outcasts, those who are sick, not the righteous but the sinner, you see from this woman’s perspective it’s a random chance meeting that’s going to changer her life forever. But we’re privileged to have the Heaven sent perspective and can see that this whole event was orchestrated from before the foundations of the earth. Jesus needed to go through Samaria because He had an appointment waiting there for Him.

It’s the same way with us, we just kinda haphazardly go through life, taking one day at a time getting through the daily grind. But God had it all mapped out from the beginning, every one of us are here, not by random chance, or because this circumstance or that situation brought us here, or that person drug us here. But because God has orchestrated and ordained from before the foundations of the earth that we would each be here because He wants to speak to us. Or reaffirm something to us, assure us of His ability to satisfy our deepest thirst, and how He sought after you, or perhaps is seeking after you, even though you weren’t or aren’t looking for Him. and There’s not a prejudice vein in His body. It doesn’t matter who you are, where you’ve been or what you’ve done; doesn’t matter how rich you are, how poor you are, young or old God loves you.

He pursues after you, we spoke Wednesday evening about the harvest of the down trodden and broken, those who are weak and heavy laden and they know that their needs go beyond their own means and how they’re ready to receive the kindness of our King, and surely that’s what we see in the record we have here.

But Jesus will speak to anyone who will give ear to Him, contrast Ch 3 and Ch 4. In Ch 3 Jesus ministers to a respected ruler, in Ch 4 a social outcast, in Ch 3 we see one who was seeking, in Ch 4 one who was sought out. Ch 3 One who was serious, Ch 4 a semi-smart mouth, Ch 3 an esteemed Jew, Ch 4 a despised Samaritan, Ch 3 one presumably moral, Ch 4 one who was immoral, Ch 3 one learned in the scriptures, Ch 4 one who was ignorant, Ch 3 was a man, Ch 4 was a woman, but they had one thing in common, they were both lost and they both needed Jesus. and To Jesus all that other stuff was irrelevant, what mattered was their need for Him, and so in both accounts it’s Jesus seeking to save that which was lost (it’s the *whosoever* mentality).

Vs5-6

Which according the time keeping of the Jews was about 12:00 noon, the heat of the day, notice the humanity of Jesus. John is careful to point out to us the fact that Jesus, though fully God; was fully human as well. and Every emotion or physical frailty you experience, He did as well. He'd been walking awhile, and He was tired. The bible tells us that, "*In all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*" Heb 2:17-18 In other words He knows what it's like to experience the weaknesses and limitations that you're confronted by everyday, therefore He's adequately equipped to help you in your time of need being associated with your frailty. He knew what it was like to feel run down and tired, weak and at the end, and on the physical plane that's where He's at now, just wanting to rest there by the well.

But think about this scene here for just a minute. How profound that Jesus would take His seat, and wait by this well for a dry and thirsty soul. The question is, which of these 2 is truly the wellspring of life? Jacob's well, or Jesus Christ what an incredible picture this is. The wellspring of life, Jesus Christ takes His seat by Jacobs well preparing to draw from the living waters that He might quench this woman's deepest thirst. Don't miss this picture here.

Vs 7

Now vs 6 revealed to us that it was high noon, not the normal time for the women to draw water from the well. That would generally take place either early mornings or late evenings, but not in the heat of the day, which begins (I believe) to give us a bit of insight into the kinda woman Jesus is dealing with here. She purposefully avoids the time when most of the ladies would be apt to draw, probably because she was fairly despised even in her own community. One commentator points out that the reason she wasn't too popular with the women in town was because she was too popular with the men in town.

We've pointed out Jesus' weariness, now we see His thirst, He says, "Give Me a drink." What's He doing? He's building a bridge by which He can communicate to her and she'll receive by, He's humbling Himself in her presence. She knew He was a Jew, she knew the tension that existed between the 2 ethnicities. She was probably thinking as she walked up to that well, "If He says anything rude to me, so help me He's going to get a bucket upside the head." and As she's there (perhaps in silence) maybe pulling her 1st draw from the well, her jaw hits the ground when He quietly and politely addresses her in humility. "Give me to drink."

Vs 8

Here's the hunger of Jesus, you know one thing you'll never see done by the Creator of all the universe, by the One who fed 5,000, the Giver of ever good and gracious gift is a miracle to ever meet His own needs. He refused to employ His abilities and influence to cater to His own flesh, but rather to serve the needs of others. and As one gives to Jesus, we always see that it's always turned back mashed down, pressed together and overflowing towards the one who gave, and many times everyone around that person is blessed as well.

You can't out give God, Jesus is given 5 loaves and 2 fish, what does He give back, enough to stuff over 10,000 people including women and children. Here He asks for a drink, but in return offers torrents of living water springing up into everlasting life. Why are we so fearful and hesitant to give to God? God refuses to be a debtor to any man, and He's full of grace, notice as we go through the encounter here, Jesus never gets the drink. She never gives it Him, but He still gives to her the living waters of everlasting life, and of His goodness we have all received, and grace for grace, grace upon grace upon grace.

Vs9-10

So He's built a bridge, now He begins to arouse her interests. and There's so many key words in this vs which we just don't have the time to exhaust, but briefly #1 we notice an emphasis on the words, "gift" and "given." The pure water that Jesus offers isn't filtered and purchased at Wal-mart, this water He's speaking of isn't for sale, if it was the price would be higher than what all of mankind combined could afford, we can't pay the price. and So Jesus paid it for us and in turn, now that it's His, He can do what He wants with it, He opts to give away for free. The Living Waters of the Holy Spirit, springing up into everlasting life are a free gift. Than how do I receive this gift of living water? Notice it right there, Jesus tells us, He says, "You would have asked Him."

You have not because you ask not, it's that simple, everlasting life is as simple as a request away for any who will but ask. He says here, "If you ask, I'll give." But we see the same premise that we've seen over and over again, 1st we have to see the need for it. Which is the 3rd thing I want you to see before we move out of this vs, there's 2 things you need to know Jesus says here before you understand the magnitude of the offer. #1 What the gift is, and #2 Who it is that offers it. Once you understand the reality of what the gift of everlasting life entails, what it cost to be able to offer you that gift, and the enormity of love that's displayed in the giving of the gift, and then you begin to realize Who it is that is extending Himself to you in that way.

You find yourself unable to even raise your eyes to the Heavens but all you can do is hang your head in shame, and like the publican, beat on your chest and cry out, "*God, be merciful to me a sinner!*" Luke 18:13 You get a grip on these 2 things (even sort of) and you want what He has to offer. and He's seeking to lead her to this place, where she'll seek after Him. The Lord's right there, and He's saying as Isaiah did, "*Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."* Isa 55:6-9 You know, we have a tendency to want to punish people for what they've done, make them pay, God longs to pardon, and to forgive. His ways aren't our ways, He doesn't look at things the same, or think about things like we do, He looks for opportunity to show Mercy, and that's what Jesus is doing here, just looking for an opportunity to show mercy to this woman.

Vs 11-12

This seems familiar doesn't it, she's still not making the connection; that much her and Nicodemus had in common, Jesus is speaking spiritually, and she's seeking to rationalize physically. But she's right about one thing regarding the well that Jesus will draw from; it's deep. Deep enough to quench the thirst of all of humanity throughout every age and never amount to being drawn from as much as a thimble full from the ocean. and Jesus has no need of anything by which to draw from, He speaks the word, and you're forgiven, you're soul is watered; you're filled to overflowing with torrents of living waters. But notice, He's built a bridge, and aroused her interest, but she's still thinking about literal water, Jesus keeps working with her, seeking to elevate her understanding and help her make the transition into the spiritual.

Vs13-14

Vs14 Gives us both a positive and negative response to this living water, to the negative, if you partake of these waters you'll never thirst again, you'll be completely satisfied perpetually. To the positive that water will spring up in you, filling every chasm in your being to overflowing, the quality of life that you'll experience will be everlasting. and Finally (regarding vs 14) we take note once again of who it is who gives this ultimate thirst aid. Jesus says, "It is I."

F.B. Meyer makes this comment, "The white robed company clustering around the throne cannot give it, nor the morning stars that rejoiced over the birthday of the young world; nor the venerable elders; nor the living creatures with their ceaseless chant. But the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne pours forth its ceaseless floods from the very heart of that throne. And He can give, because He gave Himself up to the death of the cross. By the agony that issued in the cry, 'I thirst,' He was enabled to open fountains adequate to banish thirst from the universe of God."

So the 2 questions that I suppose need posed today are #1 Have you drank from the fountain of living waters? and #2 If you have, do you find yourself thirsting again? Because Jesus said that whoever drank of the water He offered wouldn't thirst anymore. So the question is how is it you've been watering your soul lately? Because if vs 13 isn't underlined, memorized, and changing your life, then let it begin today, "*Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again.*" and You and I err greatly if we allow our understanding of what Jesus was saying to be limited only to that well that they were there before. This is a statement that stands true with any material aspect of this world. Trying to satisfy yourself through entertainment, music, the movies, shopping sprees and all, you drink of that water you'll thirst again.

It's not wrong to enjoy life, but none of those things will permanently satisfy, people drink from the well of partying, one sexual encounter after another, internet pornography, or any # of debased activities. You drink from that well, and you'll thirst again. People seek after the highest rung on the corporate ladder, thinking that if they just had enough political power, or money, or influence, then they'd be satisfied, drink from that well, and you'll thirst again.

Only Jesus Christ truly satisfies that deep thirst that abides (with out exception) deep with in the heart each and every individual. Only knowing Him, abiding in Him, letting His word abide in you, fellowshiping with His own, and giving way to the moving of His Holy Spirit in your life will satisfy. We were created for fellowship with God, and until that's happening on an ongoing consistent basis in our lives, we'll find ourselves thirsty for something more, and the more we need is found not in more money, or more power politically or economically, but in a person, the person of Jesus Christ

Vs 15

He's built a bridge, aroused her interests, now she wants what He has to offer, she's still thinking physically but now Jesus is going to get to the point.

Vs16-18

Jesus is cutting through all the peripheral debris that she's not able to compute. and The point here that Jesus is making both to her, and to everyone who's ever drawn breath on the top side of this earth is that she's a sinner and she's in need of salvation. and Jesus, like a master surgeon wields the scalpel of conviction in such a way as to open up her heart and lay it right out there before her, she's undone before Him. What does the bible say, "*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*" Heb 4:13 Even as we've seen the humanity in this ch, here His deity is revealed once again as He searches this woman's heart even as He searches the depths of each heart here today. and Notice she doesn't seek to justify herself, deny what He's said, or hide the facts from Him, she's exposed, there's no human being that's gone through such tragedies who isn't filled with deep seated hurt.

You can almost sense the shock mingled with sorrow as this woman's past is held out in front of her. Why did Jesus do that? Because He understands and teaches us here that apart from conviction there is no conversion. It's like the painful cleansing of infection in a deep wound that needs to be scraped out/painful though it may be with out it there's no healing. and It's not like He dwells on the issue, but apart from confession there's no what? Forgiveness. You guys Jesus knows the deepest blackest secrets of your heart, and He loves you, wants to forgive you, but you've got to bring those things to the light before Him, and quit seeking to hide them in darkness.

Vs19-20

Now there are those who think she immediately seeks to side step the issue here and engage in a religious debate to sort of get the attention off her, and that may be. But there's really no weight to that and Jesus certainly doesn't call attention to that. It seems to me that she's just seeking to articulate what's deep down in the heart of every thirsty soul, "How do I get right with God?" Jesus has exposed her, opened up her heart and caused her to see herself as a sinner in need of salvation, in need of forgiveness, and so she says, "Where do I go to get right with God?"

Vs21-22

Jesus is just saying you guys have your facts messed up, and Israel's history was properly recorded by the Jews, not the Samaritans, and since Jesus is a Jew and salvation is by Him, salvation (Messiah) is of the Jews.

Vs23-24

There's that word "must" again, it's a *non-negotiable necessity*, it's not a matter of *location*, but of *relation*. It's about a relationship that's personal with the Father, the short of it is that we worship honestly, and from the heart. Not hypocritically and from the mouth, in spirit, as opposed to the err of the Jew getting hung up in the letter. and In truth, as opposed to the err of the Samaritans having rewritten the books.

Vs25-26

Jesus finally reveals Himself to this woman in a most radical way, just comes out says, "I'm the Christ." "I'm the Savior of the world." "I've come to set the record straight on what it means to be right with the Father and it's through the Son."

Today if you're here and you don't know Jesus Christ and by God's grace you've been brought into a bit of an understanding as to what this gift is, and who it is that offers it. If you'll just ask, Jesus will give to you a divine drink of water that'll quench your thirsty soul, and you'll never have to thirst again, but as long as you're taking in the waters of this life, you'll always thirst again. Receive that divine drink today, today is the day of salvation. Don't reject Jesus Christ receive Him, He shed His blood for you, just come to the light and receive His gift of forgiveness.