

# The Thirst Quencher

**Theme:** Jesus satisfies our thirst

**Object:** A bottle of water or sports drink

**Scripture:** Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.” (John 4:13-14 NASB)

Some of you play a sport and all of you play hard everyday. You need to know that when you are playing hard you need to drink plenty of liquids. The question is, “what kind of liquids should you drink?” Water, of course, is always a good choice. If you stop at a store when you are hot and thirsty – the shelves are full of all kinds of things to drinks: sodas, sports drinks, energy drinks, flavored water, etc. It is hard to know what is best.

We can be influenced for ads on TV. One popular sports drink ad says, “It’s better than water, juice or any other drink. It gives your body what it is thirsty for! It gets you going and keeps you going.” WOW! That ad has me convinced, but one thing I noticed about Gatorade’s ad is that it does not claim that if you drink it that you will never get thirsty again. There is not a sports drink that can keep you from getting thirsty again. But, Jesus claimed that He could give people “living water” so that a person would not be thirsty again. Now that really is something special!

This is exactly what we have been studying for the last several weeks. Jesus stopped at a well in Samaria and offered a woman “living water” that would quench her soul and her soul would be filled to overflowing. Jesus told the woman,

“Whoever drink from the water from this well will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst again.”

Jesus was not talking about water from a well or a sports drink. No, Jesus was talking about having God live in you, in your soul, this “living water” not only fills your soul and you will not thirst any more, but it will become a spring of “living water” that will overflow your soul and is to be used to refresh the souls of other people.

Dear Lord, please give each of these children Your “living water” that they may be filled with the Spirit of God forever.

The Samaritan woman had come to the well for the daily chore of filling her water jar. It was hot and wearisome for she was isolated from the other women in the village and came alone. She had chosen her life, a life with many mistakes, but it was what it was and as far she knew she would stay on the same road of surviving bad choices until her death. Christianity begins by bringing people to the truth about their depraved condition and this is done to convict them of their sin and show them their desperate need for the Savior. Jesus said, **Slide** *“It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”* (Mark 2:17 NASB) **Blank** My life was a road of good, bad and frankly some terrible choices; Jesus came to me not at a well, but in visions, this is where He sought me, just as He sought out this woman at the well. The place is not what is important. What is important is that Jesus seeks out the lost. Where did Jesus come and meet you? Remember who you were and where you were when Jesus came to you, for it makes the memory of what Jesus has done in your life that much sweeter and helps you to be concerned with those who are still lost.

### Pray

Now we are seeing the first person, as least recorded in the scriptures, that Jesus reveals Himself openly to be the long awaited Messiah. The Lord came to this well, on this day and at this hour, to seek this woman and meet her and change her. As we study verses 15 to 26 we have come to the heart of the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman – it is the turning point. The conversation between Jesus and the woman up to this point had not touched the woman spiritually, but now things change and Jesus goes to her heart.

Let me first back up a few verses as Jesus transitions from the physical water to satisfy thirst to the spiritual “living water” that quinces the soul. Jesus begins the shift from physical to spiritual in verse 13 and 14, look at these verses in your bible, Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

The woman struggles with being locked into her physical need of filling the water jar everyday and responds, “Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw.” At this point Jesus might be thinking, woman - I am asking you to see with your soul, with your spirit, but you are stuck on the water jar. So Jesus now moves her from the physical to the spiritual by asking a question that takes the woman right to the sin in her life. Jesus begins the process of exposing her guilt, not to hurt her and destroy her, but to show her need is NOT for the Samaritan Taheb or the Messiah who was Jewish, but she desperately needs the Christ who has come for all people not just the Jews, but the Samaritans and the gentiles and all the people of the world.

Reading from our text, Jesus says to the woman in verse 16, “Go, call your husband and come here.” I can see this woman who was surprised that this Jewish man would speak to her, a Samaritan woman, for she had only known scorn from the Jews. Her curiosity was aroused when Jesus offered her “living water”, but she had listened with curiosity only and had continued to prepare to lower the bucket into the well to bring water up to begin to fill her jar. Suddenly Jesus jolted her to her senses with this single sentence, “Go, call your husband and come here.” Jesus did not speak unkindly to the woman; everything He had said and the tone of His voice had been kind. However, this request of Jesus must have hit the woman like a slap in the face; suddenly her sin and failings in life were at risk of being exposed. She is

thinking does this man know of my sin or does he just want to deal with a man rather than a woman. The woman replies quickly in an effort to end the conversation saying in verse 17, “I have no husband.” Her attempt to conceal her sin to Jesus is futile. Even though her answer was true, the answer was evasive, meant to hide her sin and Jesus gently goes to her heart by exposing her sin. While commending her for her truthfulness Jesus unmasks her sin saying, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.” We can only assume that the five former husbands had either died or divorced her. Rabbinic writings had set a strong disapproval on having more than three marriages, even if they were legally permissible. Neither the Samaritans nor the Jews approved of common law marriage. By all standards she was living in sin and the man she was sleeping with was an adulterous relationship. The Bible views marriage as a formal, legal, public covenant between a man and a woman as found in Matthew where Jesus defines marriage, saying, **Slide** “... A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” (Matthew 19:5-6 NASB) We observe then the problem of fornication and adultery are nothing new to our time and our culture. Without God people gravitate to lives lived in sin. When we live by God’s standards and here the specific standards of marriage it is a fulfilling life. But, when we decide to live as our culture says in relationships that are lived in sin we are emotionally hurt and all those involved, man, woman and children suffer. **Blank**

At this point in the conversation the woman’s pretensions vanish completely, although she tries twice to change the subject in verses 20 and 25, she knows that her thoughts and actions have been exposed before this Jewish man in a way that

no simple human could do. This realization then forms the basis for her reply, “[Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.](#)” By calling Jesus a prophet she acknowledges the truth of His statement about her lifestyle. She no longer attempts to hide her lifestyle, instead this statement is a confession of her sin. It was also an admission that Jesus is “the” prophet or the Taheb or as He was called by Jewish believers the Messiah and as Christians we call Him the Christ. Taheb means the “promised prophet” and in Samaritan thinking that means the second Moses. Why do I say that this statement is to be understood beyond Jesus being “a” prophet, but to mean He is “the” prophet?

Samaritans only accepted the Pentateuch as scripture. They did not accept as scripture the post-Mosaic prophecies, which formed the second division of the Old Testament. As Christians we refer to the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy as the Pentateuch. Jews refer to these books as the Torah, which is Hebrew meaning “instruction” or “teaching”. Samaritans took the words of Deuteronomy to be literal, as do I, in chapter 34, we read, [Slide](#) “[Since that time](#) (referring to the time of Moses) [no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, for all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land, and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.](#)” (Deut. 34:10-12 NASB) The structure and grammar of these verses gives the meaning that there would be **no** prophet like Moses, whom God knew face-to-face **until** the second Moses, whom God would also know face-to-face and would be known as the Taheb for Samaritans and the Messiah for the Jews. So for this woman to call Jesus a prophet is to call Him the second Moses or the Taheb. Granted she may not have, at this point, understood the full realization of her words. But she does by verse 28 as we will see in our study

next week, the Lord willing and if He tarries. **Blank**

Jesus saw into this woman's heart and had compassion for her and desired that she be freed from sin. Do you realize that Jesus sees into your heart? It does not matter what my sin or your sin is – just as Jesus saw into the hearts of sinners like Moses, David, Salmon, Peter and Paul. Nothing is hidden from the eyes of God. Everything is uncovered and laid bare. In Hebrews we read of Jesus' love for us and His desire to forgive our sins. **Slide** <sup>13</sup>“There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb. 4:13-16 NASB) So, just as Jesus saw into the heart of this woman, He sees into your heart – He knows all that you have done and loves you in spite of your sins. If you will accept this and you acknowledge your sins before Him – then you like this nameless woman will respond to Him who seeks you – bringing salvation.

**Blank** I know sin is not often preached and sin is a distasteful subject. Christians in general and preachers in specific are often criticized for dwelling on sin too much. It is NOT because Christians love sin – it is simply because Christians are realists and recognize that sin is an everyday experience and struggle and **Slide** sin is the number one problem of mankind. What is more, the Bible insists we recognize our sin, our sinful nature and seek the power of God to overcome our sinful desires. **Blank** We are given this power of God as a gift when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior – this gift is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, meaning that it is God dwelling in our very souls. When God possesses your soul there is no longer room in your soul for

Satan and evil.

The woman continues in verse 20 saying, “Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you *people* (Jews) say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.” Having now been convicted of her sin and need for forgiveness and - it was only natural that she wondered where she should go to meet God and seek His forgiveness and grace. Since Jesus was a prophet of God, she reasoned that He would know – so she asks. Her question also highlighted a major contention between Samaritans and Jews. Both peoples believed that God had directed worship of Him to be at specific locations. In Deuteronomy 16:2 God directs Moses saying, **Slide** “You shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God from the flock and the herd, in the place where the LORD chooses to establish His name.” The Samaritans, who only recognized the Pentateuch as scripture, chose Mount Gerizim (גְּרִזִים *gher·ee·zeem*) because it was nearby to Shechem where Abraham first built an altar to God as we read in Genesis, **Slide** “Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem (שֶׁכֶם *shek·em*, in Hebrew this name means back or shoulder. Shechem was located between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim located on the shoulder of Mount Gerizim. Remember the blessing was to be placed on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal in Deuteronomy 11.), continuing on - to the oak of Moreh (מֹרְהָ *mo·reh*). Now the Canaanite was then in the land. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’ So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.” (Genesis 12:6-7 NASB) Because of this passage the Samaritans chose what they felt was a superior location than the Jews for Mount Gerizim was the mount of blessing and the location of Abram’s altar. **Blank** Jews on the other hand accepted the complete Old Testament as scripture and recognized the God had chosen Jerusalem as the place to worship Him. God’s words are recorded in a number of passages, I will read from 2 Chronicles chapter 6



verse 6, **Slide** "... I have chosen Jerusalem that My name might be there, and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel." Jesus' reply shows that this contention between Samaritans and Jews was soon to be irrelevant. **Blank** Jesus says in response in verse 21, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father." A short time after Jesus' resurrection in 70 AD during the Jewish revolt the Romans would destroy the Jerusalem Temple and hundreds of thousands of Jews would die in Jerusalem and thousands of Samaritans would die at the hands of the Romans on Mount Gerizim. More importantly the new covenant, the better covenant found in Jesus makes all external ceremonies and rituals, whether Jewish or Samaritan obsolete.

However, since Jesus had not yet initiated the new covenant the Jews were right and the Samaritans were wrong – for the entire Old Testament are scripture and the Word of God. Jesus continues His response saying, "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews." Since Samaritans rejected the Old Testament that went beyond the Pentateuch they lacked the full revelation of all that the Old Testament contained. Jesus' statement, "for salvation is from the Jew" is true in two ways; first, the revelation of salvation came first to the Jews and then to the rest of the world as we see in Romans chapter 3 where Paul asks the rhetorical questions, **Slide** "Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Great in every respect. First of all, that they (Jews) were entrusted with the oracles of God." (Romans 3:1-2<sub>NASB</sub>) Paul opened the Letter to the Romans explaining that the gospel belonged to the Jews and then to the rest of the world. In Romans 1:16 Paul states, **Slide** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Secondly, Jesus' statement, "salvation is from the Jew" is true because salvation comes from Jesus the Christ or Messiah and He was a

Jew. Paul makes this clear a little later in Romans chapter 9 when he writes, **Slide** “... from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.” (Romans 9:5 NASB) **Blank** Under the new covenant that Jesus brings - the place of worship is not the issue, but the nature of worship is. Jesus addresses this as He continues speaking to the woman in verses 23 and 24, “**But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**” Jesus is saying to the woman the time is coming and now is, for I am with you, woman at the well, that people **will worship the Father in spirit and truth.** You notice in your bibles that the word “spirit” here is not capitalized – it is not referring to the Holy Spirit, but to the human spirit. Worship of God is to be no longer external through ceremonies and rituals, but worship is to be internal – it must come from the heart. The Apostle Paul quotes Moses from Deuteronomy as he begins verse 8 of chapter 10 of Romans, **Slide** “**But what does it say? ‘THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART’** Paul continues to make very clear the nature of salvation and worship of the new covenant, listen as I continue to read— **Slide** **that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; Slide** **for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.**” (Romans 10:8-10 NASB) **Blank** Just as the Samaritans were wrong for accepting only the Pentateuch the Jews were wrong for having the entire Old Testament and all it taught about the Messiah and not accepting Jesus and the Jews of today are in the same boat as the Samaritans by not accepting the New Testament. Verse 24 of our study this morning begins “**God is spirit**” this is the biblical definition of the nature of God. Unlike the Mormon cult teaching that God is

an elevated man – God is spirit without flesh and bones. He is the invisible God referred to in Colossians, God who dwells in unapproachable light found in Psalms. If God had not revealed Himself in the scriptures and in Jesus Christ – God would be completely incomprehensible. Jesus is saying because God the Father is spirit He must be worshipped in spirit.

Struggling to comprehend what Jesus has told her, she says in verse 25, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” She is confused, but expresses her hope that one-day the Messiah will come. Her understanding of the coming of the Taheb or Messiah is found in Deuteronomy 18:18, **Slide** “I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.” **Blank**

Jesus clarifies their whole conversation with what must have been a shocking statement to the woman. Jesus says, “I who speak to you am *He*.” Jesus had avoided being boldly forthright up to this point. He had not even hinted that He was the Messiah to Nicodemus, only his need to be born again spiritually. Many of the Jews were looking for a Messiah that would lead a revolt against the Romans and make Israel a free nation again. The faith of the Samaritans was not bound up with all the misconceptions of the Pharisees and Jewish leadership. You will also notice in your bibles that the word “*He*” is italicized because it is not in the original text.

What Jesus said was, **Slide** “I who speak to you AM.” Remember when Moses asked God who he should tell the Israelites in Egypt who sent him. God answered, **Slide** “‘I AM WHO I AM’; and He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:14 NASB) Jesus now communicates two things to this woman with no name; first that He is the Messiah of who she referred to in verse 25 and

that the Messiah is God, the same God of Moses in Exodus and secondly that He is the Messiah and therefore He is God. Can you imagine the shock this woman must now have had! Unlike Nicodemus, she knew nothing of the signs and miracles Jesus had preformed. But, because this woman perceived and understood what Jesus knew about her – she believes. Jesus had opened her mind from the physical to the spiritual and she recognizes Him as God. **Blank**

Jesus conversation with the woman at the well illustrates three nonnegotiable truths about salvation. **Slide** First, salvation comes only to those who recognize their desperate need for spiritual life and that they do not have it. The “**living water**” Jesus offers will only revive those who realize their spiritual thirst. **Slide** Secondly, salvation comes only to those who confess their sins, repent of their sins and desire forgiveness. **Slide** Thirdly, salvation comes only to those who embrace and believe in Jesus as the Messiah or Christ and in Jesus as their personal sin bearer. Salvation is found in no one else but Jesus. The scriptures are clear, **Slide** “**There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.**” (Acts 4:12 NASB) The time is now! If there is anyone here, who like the woman at the well, has come to understand they need salvation – come to Jesus – come now! My beloved, please bow your heads and pray that the Holy Spirit will open hearts and continue to pray with bowed heads until I release you. If you desire forgiveness of your sins I would ask you to come forward and let me pray with. My brothers and sisters please continue to prayer with your heads bowed. Jesus is calling - please come forward the time is now.