



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

When the Living Water was Thirsty

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JOHN 4:1-10

MAY 20, 2014

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Labels seem to be of utmost importance in the capitol. Legislators and elected officials are almost always immediately identified by a “D” or an “R” after their name. After party affiliation, their stand on particular issues is usually the next label attached to an individual. These labels will often determine our attitudes towards various individuals and groups in the statehouse and how we treat and interact with them.

However in Jesus’ ministry, we find that such labels did not matter to Him as He sought to proclaim the good news of salvation with those He met. In John chapter 3, He shared the message that “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” with an upper class, well educated religious leader named Nicodemus. In the account we are considering we find a woman who was poor, uneducated, and bore every label that would make her seem unacceptable and unapproachable by Christ.

¹Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ²(although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), ³He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. ⁴And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; ⁶and Jacob’s well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.” ⁸For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. ⁹Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.” John 4:1-10¹

Jesus ignored these labels to reach out to this woman and minister to her. First, she was a woman, and no self respecting Jewish man would have had such a conversation with a woman. Secondly, she

was a Samaritan, so on both ethnic and religious grounds people of Israel would have nothing to do with Samaritans (vs.9). Finally, she was evidently openly immoral (vs. 16-18). The fact that she came to the well at mid day rather than early in the morning indicated she was not even accepted by those in her own village.

This passage is packed with truth which could occupy our attention. We could study Jesus’ method of evangelism as He shared the gospel with this woman. We could dig into the implications of Jesus being the “living water” which alone satisfies the thirst in our hearts (vs. 10-14). We could learn what is required for us to truly worship God (vs. 20-24).

We can study and learn a great deal from all of these aspects of the story. However, I believe we find the main point of this account in verses 25-26. At the climax of the conversation, the woman says to Jesus, **“I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”** ²⁶Jesus said to her, **“I who speak to you am He.”** This was the first time Jesus openly proclaimed He was the Messiah. It is significant that He did so to this sinful, Samaritan woman. John wrote His entire gospel, including this account, to prove that Jesus was God come in human flesh to be the Savior of sinful people (John 20:31). The main point of this account is really all about Christ and who He is.

With that in mind, there is a brief statement found in verses 6-7 that is often overlooked which points us to these great truths about Christ:

So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”

In our studies of Jesus’ life and ministry we have used Jonathan Edward’s idea of the “diverse excellencies” demonstrated in the person of Christ to help us understand the amazing truth of Who Christ is and what He has done for us. The fact Jesus was wearied from His journey and He asked the woman for a drink demonstrate the humanity of Christ. When He said to the woman, **“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water”**, He showed He was God and could provide

BIBLE STUDIES

INTERIM BIBLE STUDY: **TUESDAY MAY 20, 12:00 NOON**, TREASURER’S CONFERENCE ROOM (EB 54 IN BASEMENT OF EAST WING)

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forgiveness of sin and eternal life. Once again we see the “diverse excellencies” of Christ demonstrated in this one account.

“I AM THIRSTY...”

When we read this account of how Jesus asked the woman for a drink, we cannot help but think of another time where the scripture reveals that Jesus was thirsty. John 19:28 tells us that “Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture,² said, “I am thirsty.”²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a *branch of hyssop* and brought it up to His mouth.³⁰ Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.” At the well Jesus, experienced the thirst we might experience associated with traveling or working on a hot day. On the cross, this was so much greater as Jesus had gone hours without food and drink and experienced great blood loss from the beating, nails, and crown. Psalm 22:15 describes how His “tongue cleaved to His jaw”. From Jesus suffering such thirst, there are two marvelous lessons we can learn.

JESUS SUFFERED THIRST ON OUR BEHALF.

Jesus’ experience of thirst is just a part of the substitutionary suffering He endured on our behalf. Each and every one of us rightfully deserves eternal punishment because of our sin and rebellion against a holy God. Even in His compassionate dealings with the woman at the well He exposed her sin and need for a Savior. We read of the suffering of the rich man in Luke 16:24 where, suffering in Hell, he asks Abraham to send Lazarus to “dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame”. Jesus endured **ALL** the suffering and punishment for sin on behalf of those who trust in Him. This is the truth perhaps best described in Isaiah 53:

⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

JESUS UNDERSTANDS OUR OWN WEAKNESSES AND SUFFERING

Jesus endured weariness and thirst. This means He can understand our own weakness and suffering as we take those things to Him in prayer. Hebrews encourages us, “¹⁵... 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.

¹⁶ 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. 4:15-16

Here is how C.H. Spurgeon described Jesus’ thirst:

Jesus said, “I thirst.” As our Lord used these words, may I ask you for a minute to contemplate it with wonder? Who was this that said, “I thirst”? Know you not that it was He who balanced the clouds and who filled the channels of the mighty deep? He said, “I thirst,” and yet in Him was a well of water springing up unto everlasting life! Yes, He who guided every river in its course and watered all the fields with grateful showers—He it was, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, before whom Hell trembles and the earth is filled with dismay! He whom Heaven adores and all eternity worships—He it was who said, “I thirst!” Matchless condescension—from the Infinity of God to the weakness of a thirsting, dying Man! And this, again I must remind you, was for you. He that suffered for you was no common mortal, no ordinary man, such as you are, but the perfect and ever blessed God, high above all principalities and powers and every name that is named! He it was who, with this condescending lowness of estate, stooped and cried, “I thirst!”³

CONCLUSION

- **JESUS SUFFERED ALL THE PUNISHMENT OF SIN ON BEHALF OF ALL THOSE WHO REPENT AND TRUST IN HIM. HAVE YOU TRUSTED CHRIST AS THE ONE WHO SUFFERED FOR YOUR SIN?**
- **SINCE JESUS SUFFERED THIRST AS WELL AS ALL THE OTHER INFIRMITIES OF LIFE, HE UNDERSTANDS THE SUFFERING AND TRIALS WE FACE. AS HIS FOLLOWERS WE CAN FIND GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT IN TAKING ALL THESE TO HIM IN PRAYER.**

¹ Though we are only looking at a very narrow aspect of this account, I encourage you to read the whole chapter (John 4:1-42) when you have the opportunity.

² This is in fulfillment of Psalm 69:21.

³ C.H. Spurgeon. *The Savior’s Thirst*. Sermon #3385. www.spurgeongems.org.