

NEVER THIRST AGAIN
John 4:1-15

18 May 2014

[Note: Preaching is a live event where God meets with His people, and that cannot be reproduced or duplicated. It is unique every time, and indispensable in the life of the Christian and the church. This is not a complete transcript; it is typically about 80% of the actual sermon. Some common abbreviations in these notes are: "NB" = *nota bene*, "note well" / "+" = an illustration / "→" = an application / "BTW" = By the way / "Cf." = cross-reference / "i.e." = In other words / "b/c" = because / "E.G." = for example.]

Turn to John 4, as we come to another fabulous chp in John's Gospel: the woman at the well & Jesus' living water!

In our 1st world, suburban lives today, it's hard for us to grasp the importance of water in rural & traditional societies, especially in dry, hot, middle-eastern climates. –

Here, we have running water, on tap, thanks to the municipality, or your boer hole. – It costs you; but it's available. – When's the last time you had to worry if you might die of thirst? – Probably never.

NOT SO in biblical times. – If you couldn't get access to water, your crops would fail, your flocks would perish, and you and your family would die. –

BUT if you found a steady water supply, you were the richest, most coveted of all men. – Your crops would grow, your flocks would multiply, your wealth & health would increase. –

To have an unfailing supply of water was about the greatest earthly blessing you could ask for in those days. (Andrew Paterson)

With that in mind...

Stand, Read vv. 1-15 & Pray: ...for 20:31...

Give title...

****TWO TRUTHS about our Lord – so that your thirst is quenched and your witness for Christ is improved:***

1. vv. 1-10, LOVING SAVIOUR

Does God really love the whole world, as Jesus said in Jn. 3? – Did Jesus really come, not to condemn, but to save? –

Is salvation truly offered to "whosoever" will believe, anyone? – Today's story is going to test the limits of God's love, to see if He cares even for the most unlovely.

Clearly the Apostle John here is drawing for us a deliberate contrast in the kind of people Jesus' reached. – Chp. 3 was Nicodemus: male, Jewish, learned, powerful, respected, orthodox, religious, moral.

Now we meet Nicodemus' polar opposite: a female, Samaritan, unnamed, unschooled, illiterate, uninfluential, despised, outcast, immoral.

YET they had one thing in common: they both needed Jesus. And both were pursued by Jesus.

How great indeed is God's universal love. – How matchless His grace! – That He would save, not only *respectable insiders* seeking truth (Nicodemus, by night), but *broken outsiders* running from the truth (this woman, by day). –

“None of us are beyond the need of God's grace, and none of us are beyond the *reach* of God's grace!” – Jesus came to seek & save the lost, and the ‘found’ who think they're saved already.

vv. 1-3 – If John the Baptist's disciples couldn't appreciate Jesus' expanding ministry (3:26ff), then you can be sure the Pharisees wouldn't! – So to avoid unnecessary conflict at present, Jesus heads north, back to Galilee.

v. 4 – This route was a geographic necessity, unless you wanted to walk way out of the way, east of the Jordan. – But John may also be pointing here to a *divine* necessity.

I.e., ‘Jesus passed through Samaria, not only because that was the main road, but also because of a sovereign appointment.’ (Cf. all other uses of *dei*, “must/necessary” in John: 3:7,14,30; 9:4; 10:16; 12:34; 20:9)

WHAT do we know about Samaria? – Was this a favt holiday location or stopover for Jews? – Hardly!

KIDS: How did Jews feel about Samaritans? – Remember Jesus' parable about the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10)? – That Good Samaritan was the least likely, most shocking person to care for that wounded Jew left, but he did.

WHY did the Jews hate the Samaritans? – 2 Kgs 17-18 tell us about how mighty Assyria led away the Jews captive, but left behind the poor & insignificant Jews. – Those Jews then began to intermarry with Gentile foreigners who settled in the land. –

That region of Samaria thus became known as full of half-breeds – a contaminated, mixed race who defiled their pure Jewish blood with that of ‘pagans’. –

Yet these Samaritans still tried to hold on to a form of Jewish worship. – When the Jews returned to the land after the 70yrs of exile, the Samaritans offered to help them rebuild their temple (Ezra 4:2-3); but that offer was rejected.

So in 400BC, the Samaritans built their own rival temple on Mt. Gerizim (as we'll hear about later here in Jn. 4). – But about 250 yrs later, the Jews burned that down. – Things were not going well between these two groups; the hostility & bitterness only increased.

The Samaritans had their own version of the Pentateuch, the first 5 books of the Bible; but they rejected the rest of the OT, all other 34 books. – To this day, there are still Samaritan people in that region who have their own Samaritan Passover ceremony, separate from the Jews.

+ The writings of the ancient historian, Josephus, describe frequent conflicts between the Jews & Samaritans. – At times, the Romans were called in to pacify the fighting between these two nasty enemies.

vv. 5-6a – Perhaps linked with village today of Askar, near Shechem. – Genesis tells us that Jacob bought a piece of ground here (Gen. 33:19), and that he then gave some to Joseph (Gen. 48:22), and was buried there (Josh 24:32). – Thus, it is likely that Jacob would've had a well there also (though OT never mentions).

Jacob's well is still there today, next to an Eastern Orthodox church. It is an ideal well – dug very deep, *and* fed by an underground spring of fresh water. – It is still active today.

v. 6bc – I.e., probably high Noon, the hottest part of the day. – And who is tired here? – Who? – Jesus, the Almighty Son of God, the Light & Life of the world? – “weary, tired, exhausted, moeg”? –

Plopping Himself down by a well, fatigued and spent from hours of walking in the hot Mediterranean sun? – Our Lord Jesus, resting not clouds of glory, not on a throne, not even on a cushion, but on a hard stone (or wood) surface by the well? –

That's right. – God the Son rests His weary body – the eternal Word “who became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, that of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1:14).

And so Christ's veiled glory shines throughout the Gospels, as we see Jesus: exhausted, sleeping in a storm-tossed boat; weeping, angry, disturbed, thirsty, tired; sighing, hurting, grieving, marvelling, etc.

NB: Jesus did not just seem human, or look human, or appear or pretend to be human, or just wear a human mask, or become almost human. –

Oh no! – In order to be our Mediator and Saviour, He had to become FULLY human, like us in every way, except for sin. – The eternal Son of God had to take on a 2nd nature, humanity, in order to die for us and save us.

Heb. 2:14 tells us that, since we “share in flesh and blood”, Jesus “Himself likewise also partook of the same”. – Then Heb. 2:17 says, “He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest.... For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.”

What infinite compassion, what humility & condescension, that our Lord would take a body like our own, subject to all its pain & fatigue. –

That the Maker of heaven & earth would limit Himself to the frailty of the human frame. – Indeed as Scripture says, “though He was rich, for our sake He became poor”, very, very poor.

→Christian, do you believe that?! – In times of weakness or pain, you wonder, ‘Does God understand my pain? Can He really relate? Does He truly understand?’ –

Heb. 4:15 goes on to assure us, “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weakness, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”

Then go to the Gospels and witness the complete humanity of our Lord. – He knows your humanness more than even you do.

With a real human nature, He walked upon this earth. With a real human nature, He died on that cross. – With a real human nature, He rose, and then ascended back to our Father. –

And right now, at the Father’s right hand, there is no longer the eternal, pre-incarnate Word. – No, now He forever wears a real human nature. – Right now in Heaven, there is a Man, the God-man, Jesus, Who prays for us, Who cares for us, Who rules history and builds His Church.

→When you cry out to God in your pain & weakness, He knows exactly what you mean. – When you are trying to have a quiet time in the Bible & prayer, but you fall asleep from exhaustion, Christ knows. – If you get home from work absolutely finished, Christ knows.

You may be sitting there right now, drained & depleted. – If so, tell it to Jesus – He knows, He cares!

He is not only your almighty Lord & Saviour; He is also your compassionate Friend and caring Brother. – He is the perfect blend of power & sympathy. –

He knows the heart of a weary man or woman, for He was once “wearied” at the “sixth hour” by Jacob’s well in Samaria.

Back to John 4...

vv. 7-8 – I.e., (v. 8) Jesus’ disciples would’ve normally drawn the water, but they weren’t available this time. – They had probably seen Jesus’ weariness, and told him, ‘Master, you rest here, we’ll go sort out some lunch for us all.’ –

NB, another sign that Jesus is counter-cultural, refusing to be bound by manmade barriers to the gospel: He allows His disciples to go and buy food from these ‘defiled’, ‘unclean’ Samaritans.

In the meantime, Jesus is left by Himself, parched with thirst:

Repeat: v. 7c...

Now, what was she doing drawing water at high noon? – The women normally drew water early and late, when it was cool; and they came in groups. –

Makes sense, that is, unless you are an outcast, scorned & isolated from the rest of the community. – As we’ll see in v. 18, that was the case with this immoral woman. – So she came alone, drawing water in the heat of the day.

Next question, one which the woman herself raises:

v. 9 – As I said earlier, the animosity between the Jews & the Samaritans ran deep. – They were from ‘the other side of the tracks’, and you didn’t mix with them. – By Jewish law, even her water pot was unclean to drink out of.

Apartheid didn’t start in South Africa. – It starts in the human heart (Titus 3:3). – There is a racist inside of us all that only Christ can truly conquer. v. 9d...

NB, it wasn’t just her despised ethnicity. – It was also her gender: Jewish men did not socialise with women, the ‘inferior’ species. – Women had no property rights, no voting rights. – Proud Jewish men thanked God daily that they were not women. –

Rabbinic law forbade men even from greeting women of their own family in public. – There was even a ‘Society of the Bruised & Bleeding Pharisees’, because they would close their eyes every time they saw a woman, but then they kept bumping into things!

NB, What Jesus did here could be seen as flirting. – Remember, where did both Isaac & Jacob & Moses all meet their wives? (Gen. 24 & 29; Exod 2) – At wells! (a top dating spot in the ancient world, like going to the movies today?!)

Furthermore, it wasn’t just the Samaritan woman’s wrong race and wrong gender, but also her wrong reputation. – Jesus is committing a triple violation here!: Jesus, a Rabbi & respected Teacher, was socialising with an unclean woman of the streets?! – Unthinkable, appalling!...

→YET, despite all this, Jesus pursues her. – As Jesus said after calling Nicodemus down from the tree and saving him, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Lk. 19:10).

~ I love the way J.C. Ryle describes Jesus’ approach with this woman at the well: *It was a gracious act of spiritual aggression on a sinner. He did not wait for the woman to speak to Him, but was the first to begin conversation.*

It was [also] an act of marvellous condescension. He by whom all things were made, the Creator of fountains, brooks, and rivers, is not ashamed to ask for a drink of water from the hand of one of His sinful creatures.

Now Christ comes to His whole reason for being here, and for talking to her and for ignoring every taboo:

v. 10 – Jesus now lifts the conversation to a higher plane, using the physical to illustrate the spiritual.

→What was one of the most loving things about our ‘Loving Saviour’? – His **relentless evangelism**, His compassion & passion for souls.

Jesus models for us what faithful witnessing should look like. – Watch the original Soul-winner here as He goes to work! –

If He has called us to be “fishers of men”, let’s first watch the master man-catcher. – *Two brief lessons:*

(a) *Exhaustion is no excuse.* – It's been said, 'The world is run by tired men'. – Great athletes learn to play while injured. – We must learn to minister while tired.

You will never be greatly used of God unless you learn to minister to others when exhausted, as the Lord strengthens you. – O that we would be more large-hearted like Jesus and outward-focused.

(b) *Find common ground.* – He was a bridge-builder in conversation – He knew how to use simple, ordinary objects to arouse the imagination, spark curiosity, and trigger further interest. He used the seen to point to the unseen, the visible to point to the invisible. –

And so must we: daily news, weather, circumstances, observations – learning to live more with our eyes & ears open to the world around us and the people around us, and looking for ways to connect the two, always scanning the horizon for bridges for the gospel, 'seasoning every conversation with salt', Col. 4...

+ E.g., Josh on airplane last month, speaking to Norwegian couple who travel the world, yet each place has its problems, and Norway has its problems – 'why is that do you think', preparing them to think about sin and the need for Christ...

NB, v. 10d, the mercy of Jesus: NOT, '...you would have asked Him, and He would've said, 'Forget it, you are a wicked woman. Only filthy water for you, filthy woman. Living water is only for people who are *living* right, unlike you. Clean yourself up first, then I'll think about giving you any fresh water'.'

But instead, listen to the mercy of Jesus: v. 10d...

She deserved wrath, but He offers her love. – She deserved judgment, but He offers grace. – She deserved death, but Jesus offers life instead.

→My lost friend: Do you understand the willingness of the Saviour to save you? – When John 3 told us, "God so loved the world", do you realise the implications of that? – Do you realise what Jesus is saying her to this immoral woman: v. 10d, "He would have given you living water"??...

Sinner, Jesus is far more ready to hear you than you are to pray. – He is more ready to give gifts than you are to ask for them. In the Bible, God says, "All day I have stretched out my hands to a disobedient & obstinate people" (Rom. 10). – Jesus wept over rebellious Jerusalem just before they rejected & crucified Him. – Yet He longed to save them.

Dear unsaved person, boy or girl, man or woman: When you fall asleep tonight without any thought of God, He is full of thoughts toward you, thoughts of pity and compassion. –

When you wake up in the morning thinking of everyone else but God, He will still be thinking of you – eager to give You His free, undeserved gifts, longing for you to turn from the putrid wells of this world and to taste His living water! (Cf. Jn. 3:17...)

→ALL that keeps your thirsty soul from this eternal refreshment are *two things*: not knowing & not asking! – Reread: v. 10...

2. vv. 10-15, LIVING WATER

v. 10, “living water”?? – What would this signify to Jewish ears? – This kind of refreshing supply was what only Messiah could bring when He comes:

Isa. 12:3, On that day, when Messiah comes, “you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation”.

Isa. 44:3, “For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground....”

Zech. 13:1, “In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.” – Zech. 14:8, “And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem....”

Also in the OT, God Himself is called the “spring of living water” (Jer. 2:13; 17:13). – And Ps. 36:9 says that God is the “fountain of life”.

And Jews would’ve known well the great invitation of Isa. 55, “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters...that your soul may live!”

Remember, Jesus was a Jew, the Apostle John our author here was a Jew, and he wrote to churches that still had Jews in them. – So now, with more Jewish, OT ears on, listen to Jesus’ words:

Jn. 4:10...

Right there, seated in front of this Samaritan woman, was the only Man on earth who could ever rightly make such a claim, the God-man, Jesus.

I.e., Jesus is saying here, ‘Dear woman, if only you knew. You see me as just a weary Jewish traveller. You think I need you. You think my thirst is the problem. If only you knew, if only you saw your need for Me, your need for a water like you’ve never tasted before, a spiritual supply that will quench *your thirsty soul* and satisfy your thirsty heart for all eternity.’

Imagine if she had known already, if her heart was prepared, if God’s Spirit had convicted her of sin, if she had come that day to the well *looking* for Messiah:

‘Give You a drink, Lord Jesus? Sure, if you are thirsty, what an honour, let me help You in Your humanity. But most of all, I beg of You to give *me* a drink from Your fountain of life.’

‘I know who You are, Jesus. You are Messiah, Son of God, the eternal Word made flesh, the King of Israel, the Light & Life of the world. I could never earn or achieve Your salvation. I can only receive it as a gift.’

‘Jesus, this world is a wilderness. I have tried all the other wells, and they are all dried up. I have no other hope. You alone can satisfy. I beg of you, give me Your living water!...’

v. 11 – To this day, it's over 30m. deep! – That's a long way down. Without a bucket, what are your options??...

Like Nicodemus in chp. 3 with the new birth, so this woman just doesn't get it. – She is still blind as a bat, and deaf as a corpse, spiritually. –

Jesus is speaking profound spiritual truths, and all she hears is mundane physical facts. – Jesus is thinking of heavenly things, and she is still staring at the ground.

v. 12 – Sometimes we are funniest when we don't try to be! – “greater than our father Jacob”?! – How about the “God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob”? – How about the One who was the true “Jacob's ladder” (cf. Jn. 1:51)? (And she says “our father”, yet she's a half-breed at best?!)

But she is thinking, ‘Jacob went to all that effort to dig out this very deep well. It must've taken him weeks. Then he built a structure to get water up out of the well.’

‘But now You, Jesus, just rock up and say You've got some shortcut, some easy way to provide the deepest, freshest, best kind of water, and as a gift for free? What kind of prankster or charlatan are you?’

v. 13a – This should be an inscription carved across all the world's amusements & diversions, all the best earthly pleasures & escapes: “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again.” (and again, and again, and again....)

+ Without Christ, we are like desperate sailors adrift at sea – they drink of the ocean, only to find? – They become even more thirsty. Surrounded by water, yet *none* of it can save you!...

But in contrast:

vv. 13-14a – Isa. 49:10 says that when God's salvation comes, through the Servant of the LORD, Messiah, then God's people “will never hunger or thirst, nor will the scorching heat or sun strike them down; for He who has compassion on them will lead them, and will guide them to springs of water.”

John's Jewish mind & Jewish readers may have recalled such texts. Especially this one:

Jer. 2:13, “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken Me, the spring of living/fresh water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

+ I remember before the Lord saved me, I was so puzzled: ‘Why is satisfaction so hard to find? Why do friends still leave me thirsty? Why do sports, or girls, or books, or fun, or sleep, or work – why do they all still leave me empty?’ – Answer?:

Because these are all “broken cisterns” (Jer. 2:13), leaky buckets, cracked pots that cannot hold water. –

You come to the things of self or this world, you bend over to take a drink, it seems to offer joy, it appears to quench your soul's thirst. –

But then you lift up the jar, and the water all leaks out the cracks and spills all over you. – And still you are thirsty, still you are searching:

v. 13...

→ Why is it that the world's richest are often the most miserable? – Why is that depression cases & suicide rates are highest among those who are most wealthy? – Why has fortune-hunter after fortune-hunter come back from his gold mines and his diamonds, only to tell us, 'I need just a little more, just a little more, then I'll be happy.'

What does that tell you?! – It tells you what Jesus told us already: 'You can gain the whole world, yet lose your soul.' –

+ It tells you what Solomon told us long ago in Ecclesiastes. – He was king of Israel, richest man alive at that time, wine, women & song as his constant companions – power & influence that presidents today could only dream of, fame & recognition that CEOs and executives would drool over, leisure & enjoyments that Top Billing has never seen – YET.

YET, what did Solomon say about it all: "Vanity of vanities, ALL is vanity...chasing after the wind" (the Samaritan woman could've written Ecclesiastes too!) – I.e., 'Pointless & futile, no profit in this life under the sun. The eyes of man are never satisfied.

'The heart is never content. Our dissatisfaction is incurable, outside of fearing God and turning to Him. The more I had, the more miserable I was. Even at my best times, I knew death was on its way, to take it all away from me.'

Repeat: Jn. 4:13...

→ What is one of the most common things said in Hell? – 'I thirst, I thirst'. – Lk. 16, Jesus tells us what the damned rich man said in his agony: 'I thirst, bring me some water, give me relief.' – Jn. 4:13...

+ Oh, this theme is throughout Scripture: Every Adam & Eve sees mouth-watering fruit on the tree. – Every Achan sees a treasure in Jericho. –

Every Ahab has a Naboth's vineyard next door. – Every Haman sees a Mordecai at the gate. – Every David has a beauty next door.

Never, never will the heart be satisfied apart from God. – Every other fountain will run dry, every other stream will disappear.

~ Augustine, "Thou hast formed us for thyself, and our hearts are restless, until they find rest in Thee."

Repeat: Jn. 4:13-14a...

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him.
(H. Bonar)*

→BUT: Should Christians thirst after God? – Does this contradict Jesus' words here in v. 14a?? – Will also discuss in small groups this week (along with church covt study)!...

v. 14b – Lit., 'leaping up, welling up, vigorously gushing up (Grk word normally used of living beings!, like Acts 3, lame man at beautiful gate, 'jumping & leaping & praising God')!...

Want to know what it looks like to have eternal life? – Ever wonder what *authentic Christianity* looks like, beyond mere cultural Christianity that goes to church and tries to look religious? – Here's your answer: v. 14b...

NOT about just having your fire insurance, escaping Hell, having hope on your deathbed. – *Eternal life is not about just life after death; it is about life before death* – spiritual life that replaces spiritual death, right now! – *NOT just life in Heaven one day, but the life of Heaven in you today.*

Exactly what Jesus was offering this spiritually dead Samaritan women whose soul was dying of thirst...

→Do those who know you best ever wonder how you do it?! – Do they look at you and say, 'Where do they get that inner strength from? What kind of energy reserves, or secret resources, have they stored away inside? Under those circumstances, in that situation, the rest of us would've dried up! But they've still got his well somewhere that they are drawing from. What is their secret?'

Answer: v. 14b – I.e., they have found true, eternal life in Christ. – Jn. 17:3 defines eternal life...

I.e., True Christianity brings the very life of God into your soul. Jn. 10:10, "I have come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly."

Namely: the very Spirit of God. – Turn over to: John 7:37-39...
(cf. Jn. 6:63; Isa. 58:11; Ezek. 36:25ff; Isa. 1:16-18, etc.)

~ Someone has said, "the life that Jesus gives is no tame & stagnant thing". – O that this would be said of us by a watching world, and by the dying Church of our day!...

...An inner joy, a spiritual life, that is never frozen in the coldest winter, and never dry in the hottest summer!

...A life that will not die unless God dies! – A life that cannot cease unless Christ ceases to be God, unless the Spirit of God ceases to be!

~ Familiar old camp chorus that I sang in ignorance for many years:
(From Num. 21:17, "Spring up O well! Sing to it!", when the Israelites dug a well in the wilderness.)

*I've got a river of life flowing out of me
Makes the lame to walk & the blind to see
Opens prison doors, sets the captives free
I've got a river of life flowing out of me:*

*Spring up O well – splish, splash
Within my soul
Spring up O well – and make me whole
Spring up O well, and give to me
That life abundantly.*

→But now I'm starting to get it!...

+ A much older, richer song was written on this theme by Charles Wesley, during a time of crisis. – Wesley was on the run in Ireland. The locals were angry at his preaching. – But a local farmer's wife hid Wesley in their milkhouse, next to a little brook. – It was at, or around, this time that Wesley wrote his immortal hymn, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul", including these verses:

*Thou, O Christ, art all I want, more than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name, I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.*

*Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.*

v. 15 – The first spark of hope. – At least she admits she has a need, and that Jesus might be able to meet it. – YET notice, it's all still a foreign language to her:

She's still thinking on the earthly, natural plane, not the spiritual plane. – She's still thinking only about personal convenience and comfort, not about spiritual need. –

She just wants a shortcut to these tiring trips to the well. – Jesus wants to show her the way to Heaven. – She just wants free public services and a reduced water bill in this life. – Jesus wants to give her eternal life.

→Sounds like many today who just want to use Jesus for life enhancement; but have never been truly convicted of sin, as we'll see next time....

CONCL. – Repeat 2 points...

+ Malcolm Muggeridge – 20th British journalist, author, and media personality, wrote this near the end of his life:

I may, I suppose, regard myself, or pass for being, a relatively successful man. People occasionally stare at me in the streets – that's fame. [I also have money, to enjoy many pleasures. I have the fulfilment of people reading what I write, etc.]...

YET I say to you, and I beg you to believe me, multiply these tiny triumphs by a million, add them all together, and they are nothing, less than nothing, a positive impediment, measured against one [drink] of that living water Christ offers to the spiritually thirsty, irrespective of who or what they are.

Jesus said, (v. 14a) "Whoever drinks of the water I will give him shall never thirst [again]".

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What other wells and waters am I most tempted to drink from instead of Christ, and why? Do they really satisfy? If not, why not?
2. How should your witnessing change (or begin!) in light of Jesus' example here in evangelising the woman at the well?
3. What has this story shown you about your Saviour's full humanity? About His great compassion and love?
4. When Jesus says He "would have given" her living water (v. 10), what does that tell us about His heart for the lost?
5. In what ways today do we let these same age-old barriers get in the way of real ministry: race/ethnicity; gender; socio-economic class; morality/religion, etc.? How did Christ overcome these common barriers?
6. What does it look like practically to have inside of you a "well of water springing up to eternal life"(v. 14)?