

The Gospel of John 4:3-29

I The Setting: A Thirsty Savior and a Thirsty Sinner (vv.1-8)

- A. The case of the Samaritan woman reveals that Christ is real satisfaction. Undoubtedly, this Samaritan woman had been foreknown and predestinated by God the Father in eternity past. (4:4, Rom.8:29). Although the Jews would never pass through Samaria, the Lord Jesus felt burdened to do so.
- B. It was noon, the hottest part of the part of the day, when most people stayed inside to keep cool. At such a time, a woman came to the well to draw water, thinking that she could be alone and free from the wagging tongues and disparaging stares of the other women who would come to the well.
- C. At first, both the Savior and the sinner were thirsty. Eventually, neither the Savior nor the sinner drank or ate anything, yet both were satisfied. This is wonderful! The sinner drank of the Savior, the Savior drank of the sinner, and both of them were satisfied
- D. The sign of Jacob's well symbolized religious tradition. What we need is a living Person, the Son of God. In John 4:10, the Lord Jesus referred to "the gift of God". This gift is the Son of God Himself. Isaiah 9:6 says that a Son has been given to us. In this God-given gift is eternal life. God's gift to us includes both His Son and His divine life; they are one gift, for the divine life is in the Son, and the Son actually is the divine life (John 14:6; 1Jn 5:11-12)

II Emptiness of Religion's Tradition & Sinful Living (Jn.4:9-14)

- A. In verses 9 through 14 we see the contrast between the emptiness of religion's tradition and the fullness of life's living water. The Samaritan woman in John 4 was trying to get water for her living from that traditional well, and she spoke to the Lord Jesus about worship on that traditional mountain. Her trust was altogether in these two traditions, in the well for human living and in the mountain for the worship of God.
- B. In verse 13, the Lord says that if we drink of any other water you will thirst again, referring to the water from Jacob's well. The sinning activity of the woman was another kind of drinking from another well. The woman tried the first husband, drinking of that "water," and she was not satisfied. Then she tried the second, third, fourth, and fifth husbands. Her changing of husbands fully proved that however much she drank of that "water," she was still thirsty.
- C. Our well is not Jacob's well, a traditional well; our well is the Son of God. We have received Him, and He has become a spring of water welling up within us into eternal life. As He wells up within us, we are brought into eternal life. This welling up of the Lord within us quenches our thirst. (v.14). There is only one "water" that satisfies people for eternity—Jesus Christ., Christ satisfies today, tomorrow, and for eternity. He is ever new, ever fresh. He always satisfies.

III The Three-fold Way to Take the Living Water (vv.15-26)

- A. To help the woman to take a drink of the fountain of life, the Lord helped her in three ways. First, He showed to her, her sins so that she could confess and repent from them. To help her see how hopeless her attempts at satisfaction were, He caused her to confront her sins. Then He showed her that she needed to contact God, as Spirit, in her spirit and in reality. She also needed to believe that Jesus is the Christ.
- B. When the woman was exposed by the Lord, she right away tried to change the subject to religion. The Lord quickly corrected her poor theology, but refused to be distracted by religious discussions, He brought her back to confront her need and the Father's need. The Father desires true worshippers, those that will worship, not in this place or in that, but in spirit. Her need was to become such a worshipper by becoming a drinker of the divine and eternal life, in her spirit. To contact God the Spirit with the spirit is to drink of the living water, and to drink of the living water is to render real worship to God
- C. The way for this woman to enter into this reality was for her to believe that this Jesus who spoke to her was the Christ. (v.26) and she did. (vv.28-29) When she believed she left her water pot, she was no longer thirsty and the well of living water gushed out of her to the townspeople. Her thirst was satisfied and so was His. (vv.31-32)