

WATER FROM MY FATHER'S WELL

Genesis 26:17-22

They say that you don't miss the water until the well runs dry...that you take it for granted until you go to the faucet, turn it on only to find nothing comes out.

Today I want to talk to you about spiritual water from our Heavenly Father's well.

Isaac had come to Gerar because of a famine. He knew that his father, Abraham had dug some wells there and he desired to drink water from his father's wells. When he arrived, he found that the Philistines had stopped up his father's wells and so he redug them. Isaac had no sooner redug one of his father's wells, when the Philistines demanded it for themselves and their herds. Isaac gave in after a brief struggle and called that well "Esek" (contention). He then redug another of his father's wells and the same thing happened. He named this well "Sitnah" (enmity). Finally he moved away from the Philistines and redug the third of his father's wells, which no one fought him for. He named this well "Rehoboth" (broad place). He could finally enjoy water from his father's well in peace.

One of the things God likens Himself to in the Bible is water.

- In the Old Test., God is pictured as the water from the rock. When Israel was wandering in the wilderness, and in great thirst, God used Moses to bring forth water from the rock to keep God's people alive.
- In Jeremiah 17:13 God calls Himself: "the Lord, the fountain of living waters."
- In the New Test., Jesus Christ meets the woman at the well and He uses the ordinary water in Jacob's well to contrast with Himself, which He offers to her as water that once she drank (referring to faith in Jesus as Savior), she would never thirst again and have a well of water within her springing up into everlasting life.

Physical water is vital to our physical bodies. Someone said, "Water can exist without man but man cannot exist without water." Every cell in our body needs water to function. We will die within 3 to 7 days without water.

In the same way, God is our spiritual water that is vital to our spiritual lives.

1. *As water sustains our body, our Lord sustains our soul.*

We can survive without food a long time but without water we will die.

When will we realize that we cannot survive without the Lord, our spiritual water?

God is like physical water, we cannot survive without Him.

God looked down from Heaven and He saw man's thirsty soul. Man was dying of spiritual thirst....he was lost in sin because of Adam's fall and his own choice to sin.

God looked in Heaven and His eyes fell upon His Son, Whom He had set aside as the sacrifice for man's sins from the foundation of the world...the living water that would quench man's thirsty soul.

God sent His Son to die in man's place on the cross and pay the penalty for man's sins. On the cross, Jesus said, "I thirst." He thirsted so that we might have our thirst quenched by the springs of living water flowing to us from Calvary.

The question is: "HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE FATHER'S WELL?"

Has there been a time in your life when you've tasted salvation by trusting Jesus as your Savior? You will never have your spiritual thirst quenched apart from Christ and He will quench your spiritual thirst for eternity only when you trust Him.

2. ***As water refreshes our body, the Lord refreshes our soul.***

Water is one of the few liquids that can refresh us when nothing else can. After you've worked in the sun or exercised or become dehydrated from sickness, it is water that will refresh you.

Once you've been saved, it is the water from the Father's well that will refresh you.

We find refreshing through daily prayer and the Word of God.

He waits each and every morning to fill us with His presence through prayer and bless us with His promises through the Word.

We find refreshing through weekly attendance to God's House. We come into the House of the Lord with thanksgiving and we meet with God's people to praise the Lord through singing, public prayer, giving of tithes and offering and receiving God's Word through the preaching.

We find refreshing through serving God through a ministry in the Church. There is something about ministering that is refreshing, whether it be singing, playing musical instruments teaching, working in the nursery (NO ONE THINKS THE NURSERY IS REFRESHING?), working in the children's department, the youth, the singles, the ladies and mens, the Couples, the Seniors, working as a greeter, an usher, behind the scenes keeping the services going....whatever your ministry it can be refreshing if you'll let it.

We find refreshing through the daily filling of the Holy Spirit of God. We confess our sins and ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit. As we yield our life to Him, He takes control and we find the refreshing of His fullness in our daily walk.

WHY DO WE TRY TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE WITHOUT CONTINUALLY COMING TO THE FATHER'S WELL FOR THE REFRESHING WE NEED?

WHY DO WE LET SIN KEEP US FROM THE FATHER'S WELL? Sin is not worth missing the Father's well. The taste of sin is pleasant at first but bitter in the end. Water from the Father's well is always refreshing. Like the Prodigal, we need to run back home to the well we've been thirsting after.

WHY DO WE LET THE BUSY-NESS OF LIFE KEEP US FROM THE FATHER'S WELL? We have so many things on our schedule, we can't get to the well...and sadly often our children don't get to it the well when we don't. Our families grow up and many times our children can't even find their way to the Father's well. We must reprioritize our lives and make time to get to the well and bring our families...

WHY DO WE LET PRIDE KEEP US FROM THE FATHER'S WELL? We are self-sufficient. We don't feel we need anything outside ourselves...we're our own well. Even Christians get prideful. We become mechanical and we're doing all the right things but not for His glory, for OUR own glory. We need to humble ourselves before God and confess that in our own strength, we are thirsty and weak and reach out for a drink from the Father's well.

WHY DO WE LET HEARTACHE KEEP US FROM THE FATHER'S WELL? We face sorrow and trials that are undeserved. We are living right. We are doing the things that please God, yet He allows a tragedy to rip our lives apart. If we aren't careful we'll grow bitter with God or others who are not facing trials, especially the wicked who don't even acknowledge the Lord. It seems the Father's well has dried up for us. The good news is that the Father's well is NOT like Abraham's wells...it cannot dry up. We just need to prime the pump and nothing primes the pump like tears. God sees our tears. He keeps them in a bottle in Heaven. Go ahead and cry out to God. Cry out from a broken heart and I promise you this....He'll hear your cry. It's ironic that we must give water (our tears) to get some water from the Father's well.

3. As water cleanses our body, the Lord cleanses our soul.

After you've exercised or worked hard in the sun or after you've been sick and unable to bathe, you can't wait to find your way to water and let it cleanse you. Water is also used to cleanse wounds and sterilize

instruments when one needs medical help. Water cleanses.
PG 4

When we get saved, the Lord doesn't remove our sin nature. He forgives all our sins for eternity but he doesn't promises we'll never sin again. He gives us His Holy Spirit so we now have a new nature that desires not to sin but rather do God's will. Each day our sin nature we were physically born with and our new nature we received when we were spiritually born again struggle for control of us. Our sin nature pull us toward sin and the World while our new nature pulls us toward holiness and serving God. Who wins control depends on who we yield to each day.

When we yield to the old sin nature and we let it control us and sin, we don't need to be saved again...we need cleansing to be restored into fellowship with the Lord. Our sins after salvation don't take away our eternal life...it's ETERNAL LIFE! Our sins after salvation separate us in our fellowship with the Lord because He cannot fellowship with sin.

Not until we come to Jesus and ask forgiveness, will we experience the cleansing of our sin and restoration to fellowship with our Lord. Turn with me to 1 John. You've heard the verse I want to share with you 100 times BUT IT IS TRUE! 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." NOW NOTICE the context...v. 3, 6, 7 "fellowship."

When we sin as Christians our fellowship with Christ and others is broken. Our first step is to repent. To change directions. To realize we have sinned and broken our fellowship with the Lord. The next step is to confess our sins before God...acknowledge that we have sinned against Him. And then we must ask God's forgiveness and anyone we've sinned against to be restored to fellowship with Christ. The last step is to receive His forgiveness. Some folks never feel forgiven and Satan uses guilt against them. God forgives us and we must receive it according to the promises of scripture.

DO YOU FEEL SOMETIMES THAT YOU'RE UNWORTHY TO DRINK FROM THE FATHER'S WELL? You're listening to the Devil's lie.

Jesus said in John 7:37, 38 "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

In the last chapter of the Bible in Revelation 22:17, the Spirit and the Bride (Who is Jesus Christ) says: "Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

The water from the Father's well is yours for the drinking. All you need to do is come to the well.

SONG – "Fill My Cup Lord"