Are you satisfied?

Wells enslave because they cannot satisfy



but freedom is possible

1. Are you satisfied?

We can try to fill ourselves and come up empty. This is seen in a day in Jesus' life recorded in John 4. Walking through Samaria, He met a woman when He stopped at a well Jacob had dug. [6]Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. [7]A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." [8]For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

Jesus seems to be the one in need – weary, thirsty, alone and with no waterpot to access the water in the well. The woman's mind goes to her apparent advantage and that she could gain from her waterpot: [9]Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

She sees this as a business transaction in which she could get something. His talking with a Samaritan woman must mean he is desperate. She had a waterpot, and He didn't. She was sure her waterpot had great value. In contrast, **Jesus offers her a free gift and water of much more value**. He emphasizes that the water He offers is infinitely better. [10]Jesus 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." It is a gift and is offered by God. She needs to see who Jesus is.

The water He offers is infinitely better than water you get by drawing it up with a waterpot. The very fact one uses a waterpot illustrates that the well is insufficient - there isn't enough water in the well for the water to spring up to the surface. It requires a waterpot. But the living water He offers is continuously flowing like a 'fountain.'

The living water is infinitely better because it comes from a Person who is eternal. Jesus is in fact the Son of God who has enjoyed eternal fellowship with His Father as emphasized in chapter 3. [3:31]"He who comes from above is above all… [35]The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand." The fellowship of the Godhead was before all the things that seem so real, and it goes beyond all the temporary things here. God is the real. No wonder Jesus can offer water that is eternally satisfying! She can receive eternal life from

Him as recorded in the last verse before this account: 3:36"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life."

But her mind is on natural things. She thinks he obviously needs a waterpot. 11The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12"Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Perhaps we could hear her sarcastically saying "who do you think you are? This well has been a source of water for people for hundreds of years, and the only way to access it is to draw with a waterpot." Similarly you may think it isn't realistic to look anywhere for satisfaction other than where people have always looked, to natural and material things.

But Jesus helps her realize that **these natural wells do not truly satisfy**. Do people really end up satisfied with things they pursue? These desires are "deceitful" Eph 4:22 because they present themselves as if they could satisfy, but they can't. It is like an advertisement that said, "It satisfies; have another." Evidently it does not in fact satisfy!

The conversation continues: 13Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." 15The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

She acknowledges that this well does not truly satisfy her. She thirsts again, and she has to come here to draw. **Over and over again she has to keep coming back to draw with her waterpot from a well that is not enough to truly satisfy her.** So enslaving! But Jesus offers her a water that satisfies. It fills a person so much that they overflow from a fountain on the inside!

A fountain is very different from a well. It has so much water, such an abundance that it bursts out of the ground. It is "living", ever-flowing water. And what a difference it is to have a fountain that is on the inside rather than having to go to a well.

So she asks Him for it...



2. What desires have deceived you?

Like the woman in John 4 we need to admit that the wells we have drawn from have been deceitful, not truly filling us. Jesus, the Son of God, offers internal and eternal satisfaction by God's life entering into her as a gift! She will be satisfied and freed from "deceitful desires" that have enslaved her! What an offer!

When she asks Jesus for the living water, He seems to abruptly shift the conversation, saying: [16]"Go, call your husband, and come here." [17]The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' [18]for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

Jesus did not change the conversation, but rather **He focused on the real wells in her life.** Six men who obviously had not satisfied. She was so dissatisfied that she is living with the sixth man without marrying him. Perhaps she figured the relationship wouldn't last anyway.

But when Jesus brings up her husband, she tries to hide. She tries to avoid the truth that He has exposed. How common! But what a poor choice it is to try to hide from the truth. When the truth is exposed, we can decide to try to run from it or cover it up, or we can decide to face it. She tries to hide.

But, God knows everything. **We really can't hide from the truth.** God sees how things really are. He knows the truth of what we have done wrong. He knows the reality of our emptiness. God knows how we have broken down moral boundaries to try to find something to fill us, like this woman had chosen to live with a man to whom she was not married.

But pushing forward to do what was wrong did not actually satisfy her. Ephesians 4:22 says that the "deceitful desires" lead to corruption. Wrong activities present themselves as being what you need to be happy. So you break through moral boundaries to get this elusive satisfaction. However, **you are left degraded and not satisfied, because they are a lie, a deception.** You find they are a façade. They are exposed to be empty, like a carnival stand that seems to be something great but is actually just cardboard.

How hollow this leaves people! How broken! Sinful choices corrupt us and leave us empty. Yet, like this woman, we may make an unexpected decision – we try to fake being worshippers of God in religion!

Jesus has shown light on her, but she tries to dodge the light shining directly on her by turning the conversation to religion. **She deflects the conversation away from herself personally and instead brings up a religious controversy.** She says, [19]"Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. [20]Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

But Jesus turns the light back on her and shows her how deep her need is before God. How wise, and how kind of Him to do so. [21]Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. [22]You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. [23]But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. [24]God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

How solemn! I can't fake it with a God who is spirit. He sees everything including the inside. He knows all about me. He knows my spirit. An empty person going to a religious place where special people do special things in special ways does not impress God. From God's perspective, religious ceremonies cannot serve as a cover for sin and emptiness. There has to be reality.

Have you been trying to hide from reality? Maybe even by being religious?



3. Are you trying to fake it through religion?

We must honestly face that we have pursued satisfaction in ways that dishonor God and stop hiding behind religious form. Jesus emphasizes that [23]"the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. [24]God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

How could she as an empty person be a true worshipper? She might have been able to fool people around her. Going to a religious place she might look to others as if she worships God. It's a bit like being at a baseball game where I do not even know the team that is playing, yet I might look like a real fan when the organ plays and everyone in the stadium does the wave including me.

But God is spirit. **God sees the inside, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.** They must actually know and value God personally. They have to be true worshipers. That is the only kind of worshiper God is seeking. How could God enjoy a person faking worship to Him based on external stimulation or religious activities at a special location? No, only the truth will do. Only true worshipers will be pleasing to God.

God does not even want worship like the system He gave to the Jewish people with priests, altars, sacrifices, ceremonies, special garments, feast days, and fasts. Jesus said "the hour is coming and now is" when all that will be gone.

He emphasizes that "salvation is of the Jews" because their sacrificial system and prophets pointed forward to Messiah who would satisfy God regarding our sins, addressing everything to bring us to God. The Jews were spared from judgment by the blood of the Passover Lamb. Ex 12 Seven hundred years before Jesus, Isaiah foretold that the Lord's Servant would pour out His life unto death and bear the sin of many, because all of us "like sheep have gone astray… but the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isa 53:6 When Jesus started preaching, John the Baptist proclaimed that Jesus is "the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29 Jesus is the One whom God promised would come to save us from our sins.

The Samaritan woman at the well knew Jesus was referring to the coming of the Messiah because she says, [25]"I know that Messiah is coming" (who is

called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things." [26]Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." Yes, **Jesus is that Messiah that was pictured and foretold throughout the Jewish Scriptures.** He was about to die for sins on the cross which meant that this woman could be brought to God in a settled, righteous position. She could come to know God as Father in a personal relationship and the “Father is seeking such to worship Him.” All the externals of religion were passing away because they were no longer needed. They were shadows pointing forward to the Messiah. Colossians 2:16-17

Religion had not produced true worshipers by external stimulation. However, by the work of Jesus Christ, God was giving eternal life on the inside by the Spirit of God thereby making true worshipers. Jesus is telling her, “You no longer need to fake it or hide.” So also with you.

You can be honest before God, because God Himself knows your sin and put it all on Jesus. As a sinner completely cleansed by Christ’s perfect work, you can approach God with full assurance and speak to Him from a heart that truly loves the Lord Jesus who died for you. Praise the Lord! What a great freedom! What a great fellowship!

A believer in the Son of God is brought into the eternal fellowship of the Father and the Son. This is truly what we were made for! **No wonder all the things other than fellowship with God could not satisfy us!**

How good to be set free from faking a relationship with God through religion. God does not want us stimulated from the outside to try to produce worship that is simulated, not real. Instead, one who is given eternal life through Christ can in fact be a true worshiper by God’s life inside – a fountain overflowing! What glory to Christ to have people who are genuine worshipers of the Father!



4. Why would I want a waterpot?

Jesus Christ emphasizes in John 4 that God sees our spirit, our inside, so we have to be actual worshipers if we are going to worship the Father. Have you been trying to hide from reality even in religion? You don't need to look to religious activities to try to seem like a worshiper of God. Instead accept the gift of eternal life that Jesus Christ offers, and God's life will come into you by His Spirit. John 7:37-39

Do not turn to external stimulation. Be a true worshiper by enjoying Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit in you, the fountain of eternal life that overflows in worship of God. In Colossians we are exhorted: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" 3:16 and similarly in Ephesians we are exhorted "Be filled with the Spirit." 5:18 As the Holy Spirit makes Christ precious to you from the Word of God, these verses say that spiritual songs will overflow from your heart as you are full to overflowing with the wonderful Son of God!

A beautiful thing happens to the woman. 27And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" 28The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29"Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

At the beginning of the interaction with Jesus, the woman was very impressed with her waterpot. But now.. she left her waterpot! Praise God! **She was freed from the slavery to wells! She was delivered from going to draw.** It is like the Proverb that says, "a satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb." 27:7 She was full, so was no longer interested in this silly waterpot.

So it is with a soul that comes to faith in Christ as their only way to be right with God. They are given eternal life inside and no longer are impressed with the vain things that once were so important to them. Those deceitful lusts that corrupted them are disposed of, for they have found the Real! True satisfaction frees from falsehoods - the things that posed as being able to fill a heart but cannot. We were made for God. Only Christ can bring us into a real relationship with God. Only Christ can satisfy. And this satisfaction sets our

hearts free from lies that enslaved and corrupted us. We escape "the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Pet 1:4

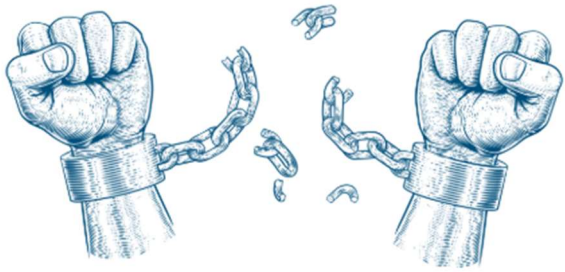
Have you come to the point of saying that Jesus told you all things that you ever did? **Do you see that you've pursued empty things to try to fill yourself?** That was the summary of her life. She finally bowed to this reality, disposed of these empty vanities, gave up on trying to fake it in religion, and found real life through Jesus the Christ who addressed her real problem of sin.

Many of the people from her city came to Jesus and believed on Him. They said about Jesus Christ: 42"...we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." They not only describe Jesus as the Christ (the Messiah) but as "the Savior of the world."

When this account started, John noted that Jesus came to the land Jacob gave to Joseph. Like Jesus, Joseph had been called the savior of the world. Gen 41:45 When there were seven years of severe famine in Egypt, the people were desperate for food. But the only person that had food was Joseph, for he had stored up grain and now he was the only way to get life. Gen 41:53-55 You could hear it being said, "If you are hungry, go to Joseph! He is your only hope. He is the savior of the world. He is the source of life."

So also with Jesus. **If you are thirsty, go to Jesus!** He is your only hope. He is the Savior of the world. He is the source of eternal life. He is life!

Do you know that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world?



5. Christ brings into true fellowship with God!

The empty woman at the well met a 7th man, the perfect One, the only One who can actually satisfy and give eternal life inside as a fountain overflowing by the Holy Spirit, such that she could be a true worshiper of the Father. She was brought into the eternal fellowship of the Godhead.

Many others since her have found eternal life in God's Christ, and they form the church of God. It is said of them in 1st Corinthians that they have been "called into the fellowship of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Cor 1:9

The hour did come when the externals of religion were set aside and a new thing was begun by God. The assembly (or church) is a heavenly company, united with the Lord Jesus the risen Head of the church in heaven as is taught in Colossians and Ephesians. Believers know Him by faith and are empowered by the Holy Spirit in them to worship in spirit and truth, not through external religious ceremonies. Rather than filling our lives and thinking with religious merits and ceremonies, we "worship God in the Spirit" Phil 3:3 as the early church in Acts and the New Testament letters did.

The Lord Jesus emphasized at the well that the true God isn't impressed with show and externals. **Thankfully we do not need externals to try to stir up worship because the Spirit within us makes the Lord Jesus precious to us.** What a great fellowship! We enjoy true fellowship with the Father and with His Son, a fellowship that has been since eternity past! 1 John 1:1-4

But the New Testament records that in the early days of the church, there were people who pressed Christians to turn back to external religion. The pressure affected Jewish believers in Christ making them think they should turn back to Judaism which they could see. The writer of Hebrews urges the readers to submit to what God has communicated about Christ as our Sacrifice and High Priest, and that through His finished, complete work we approach God with full assurance of faith. Heb 10:19-22 They must not turn back to ceremonial religion. Jesus Christ is seated at God's right hand, having brought them to the true Sanctuary, God's presence, so they must not turn back to an earthly sanctuary with earthly priests and liturgical ceremonies.

Though most of the Colossians were not Jewish, they also felt pressured to pursue a Christian version of Judaism in Christian religion with feasts, fasts, ceremonial practices, venerating of spirit beings other than Christ, and asceticism like is emphasized by monks. Christian religious systems have developed from these wrong teachings during the last 2000 years. However, the message is still the same as was urged of the Colossians: do not turn from Christ and His sufficiency! Christ did everything to address our sins and to give us new life inside by which we are able to live in real fellowship with the Father. "You are complete in Christ." Col 2:10

Let's not look for an atmosphere to make us feel worshipful. True worshipers worship in spirit and truth by the Holy Spirit inside us, not by external means that appeal to our senses.

Is it possible for a Christian to be filled to overflowing from the inside? It certainly is. Think of Paul and Silas in the inner prison in Acts 16. Nothing around them would stimulate worship. But listen! They are singing! Praise the Lord! It is possible to have hearts enjoying the Lord Jesus by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God in us such that our hearts overflow in worship to God!

What an immense privilege to be called into this fellowship with God where I can enjoy the Lord Jesus and day after day tell the Father what the Spirit is showing me about how great the Son of God is!

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NO WELLS!