

Series: John

Title: If Thou Knew

Text: John 4: 1-10

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John 4: 1: When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, 2: (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) 3: He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. 4: And he must needs go through Samaria.

Our Lord came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. When the Lord heard the Pharisees and their Jewish disciples disputing with his disciples, he did not leave his disciples. He never does! *He left Judaea.* He left the Pharisees and the carnal religionist disputing about their works. They were not concerned about THE Purifier. Their concern was disputing about outward washing before men. They were busy disputing over traditions and teachings of men. So Christ left them to their disputing. Why?

John 4: 4: And he MUST NEEDS go through Samaria.

Christ had some sheep in Samaria. The woman at the well and others were among those he loved from everlasting who must be brought to believe on him. He said to his elect among the Jews, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold. Them I must bring them" (Jn 10: 16). The Son of God must bring His sheep to himself. God the Father chose them and entrusted them to Christ to bring to him like Jacob trusted Judah to be surety for Benjamin. Judah said,

Genesis 43:9: I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever:

John 4: 5: Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6: Now Jacob's well was there.

This is the parcel of ground that Jacob bought for one hundred pieces of silver (Gen 33: 19). Now, here comes Christ who bought his people, not with silver, but with his precious blood. That parcel of ground is called God, the God of Israel. Now, here is God, the God of Israel.

This one sitting on Jacob's well is "THE fountain of Jacob" (Deu 33:28). Song of Solomon 4:15 says Christ is "the well of living waters." Christ said; "I am the living water. If any man thirst let him come to me and drink. Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

Why is Christ compared to water so frequently in the Scripture? One, water is the gift of God; Christ is the gift of God. Two, water comes from above; Christ came from above. Three, water is the need of all people; Christ is the one thing needful. Four, water is absolutely necessary or we die; Christ is the Water of Life, without him we die.

John 4:6:...Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour. 7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. 8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

The Lord Jesus was weary? But he is the Son of God! He asks this woman for a drink of water? But he is the Fountain of living waters? He made all the waters.

Isaiah 40: 12: Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

He sent His disciples into town to buy food? But he just fed 5,000 people with only five loaves and two fishes? This is God that John wrote of in chapter 1:

John 1: 1: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made by Him. Without Him was not anything made that was made.

What does this mean that our Lord Jesus Christ was tired, hungry and thirsty? He is God but he is a Man "tempted in all points as we are, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, yet without sin" (Heb 4:15). The Lord Jesus Christ had unlimited power to feed multitudes, heal the sick, give sight to the blind, even raise the dead. Yet, he never performed one miracle for himself. Satan tempted Him after 40 days without food saying, "If thou be the Son of God, command these stones be made bread" (Mt 4:3).

He had to be our sinless, selfless, humble obedient Substitute and Savior. As the Head of his people Christ lived by faith in the Father in perfection that he might be the Author and Finisher of our faith. He loved perfectly and suffered perfectly that he might be the righteous fulfillment of the law fulfilling it in perfect righteous love for God and his brethren. Christ is the righteousness and holiness of his people.

Now this woman came to draw water about the 6th hour—high noon—when the sun is hottest. Most women came in the morning. Scripture shows us they usually came in the evening. But never at high noon.

Perhaps she came at that hour because she was a known sinner and no one would be at the well drawing water. She had been married 5 times and was living with a man that was not her husband. She was a sinner and everybody in town knew her.

Yet our Master was there because God chose her and predestinated her to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to bring her to himself. He is waiting for her because he delights to show mercy. Our Lord is merciful to sinners. We are never told this woman's name. Perhaps it is to protect her due to her sins.

John 4: 7:...Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. 9: Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

She was astonished that a Jew would ask a drink of a Samaritan. Most Jews went around Samaria to get to Galilee. Who were the Samaritans? When the Babylonians conquered the southern kingdom of Judah they took the captives to the Babylonian Empire. But they left behind the lowest classes of society because they did not want low society in Babylonia. These that were left behind intermarried with other heathen nations who came into the region. The Samaritans emerged as a separate ethnic and religious group. The Samaritans blended the worship of the law of Moses with various superstitions of heathen nations. So the Jews despised the Samaritans, even more than Gentiles.

Also, it was against the tradition of the day for a man to speak to a woman alone like this. So she was shocked, *“How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.”*

But there is One who had dealings with this Samaritan. Our God is no respecter of persons. He loves his own Jew or Gentile, male or female, rich or poor, educated or uneducated, bond or free. He finds us despised, rejected, intermingled, worshipping we know not what.

By free grace, Christ makes us one in his perfect righteousness. He washes his elect in the same blood. Christ justified us by the same perfect righteousness. We are born of one and the same Spirit. He gives us one and the same faith in him. Our Redeemer makes himself our one inheritance.

What we see in our Lord receiving this woman that no one else would receive is what Paul wrote of when he wrote, *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus who thought it not robbery to be equal with God but made himself of no reputation. Took upon himself the form of a servant, became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”* (Php 2: 5-8). We see the love that condescended in humility to save sinners like us. He is meek and lowly in heart. That is why she was comfortable speaking to him. He says, *“Come to me, I will give you rest, for I am meek and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls”* (Mt 11: 29).

John 4: 10: Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

How are we made to ask mercy of our Lord? He said, *“If thou knewest the gift of God, and WHO IT IS that saith to thee thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”*

Proposition: Helpless sinners are made to ask mercy from the Lord when the Spirit of God makes us know Christ.

Subject: If Thou Knew

Christ said, *“If thou knewest the gift of God, and WHO IT IS that saith to thee,”* the sure result would be, *“thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”* So who is this one?

THE GIFT OF GOD

The Lord Jesus is the “gift of God.” *“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is...”*

John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Isaiah 42: 6: [the Father said to the Son] I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

When the Spirit convinces us God *gave* his Son then he makes us know salvation is the *gift* of God, not of works. Christ is the *gift* of God and all things are *freely given* his people in him by the *free grace* of God.

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Hosea 14:4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Christ is God's gift of Wisdom. Spiritually dead sinners are regenerated and given spiritual discernment, spiritual understanding by the Light of Christ.

He is God's gift of Righteousness. We are sinners. All who God saves are sinners unable to earn a righteousness by our works. But Christ is the Lord our Righteousness. He God's free gift of Righteousness.

Christ is God's gift who gives us all things pertaining to life and godliness. John said, "A man can receive nothing except it be given him from above." All spiritual blessings flow to the believer freely from Christ as the gift of God through the blood and righteousness of Christ Jesus.

God our Father gave his only begotten Son. He gave him to become a man like unto his brethren. The Father gave his Son to dwell among ignorant wretched sinners like us. He gave his Son to walk under the law as the Head and Representative of his people, to bear our sin and shame in his own body on the tree, to bear the stripes of God's wrath we deserved. God spared him not on the cross because he is God's gift to his people. The eternal life God gives freely is Christ. The free gift of God is by Christ's free justification given freely to whomsoever he will.

Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

2 Corinthians 9:15: Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

Who is He? He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man comes to the Father but by him! (Jn 14: 6).

When the Spirit makes us know he is the Way—the only Way—then in light of Christ the Way God convinces us the way is not in us. It never is!

When the Spirit makes us know he is the Truth—the only Truth—then in the Light of Christ the Truth, God convinces us we are liars by nature, worshipping a lie.

When the Spirit makes us know he is the Life—the only Life—then God convinces us we have no life in ourselves or our works and cannot produce any!

There is no way, no truth, no life but Christ Jesus the Son of God. No sinner can come to the Father but through faith in Christ.

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS

Who is he? He is the Fountain of living waters. When the Spirit of God reveals Christ in a sinner so that we know him then we see our great sin is that we have hewed out broken cisterns. We have sought life by our own hand. Thereby we have forsaken the true fountain of Life, Christ Jesus.

Jeremiah 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

It is not knowing Calvinism any more than knowing Catholicism that saves. It is knowing Christ. “This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3)

James 1: You have not because you ask not. You ask and receive not because you ask amiss. That you may consume it on your lusts

When will a sinner ask of him? When will a sinner ask a right? When will a sinner ask mercy? It is only when the sinner is made to know him. *“If thou knewest the gift of God, and WHO IT IS that saith to thee...[then] thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”* What does the sinner ask when he knows Christ?

“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” (Lu 18: 13)

“If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean!” (Mt 8: 2)

“Remember me!” (Lu 23: 42).

What happens when a true mercy beggar asks of him? Christ said, *“He would have given thee living water.”* May God reveal Christ in some lost sinner this hour. May the Spirit of God make some believer know Christ even more. Only when Christ is revealed in our hearts by the Spirit of God do we see our desperate condition and call on Christ for mercy. And all who come to Christ for mercy—all who come as true ruined sinners with nothing in our hands—find mercy!

Micah 7:18 Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy.

It is in light of Christ that we know who Christ is. It is Christ’s Light that we see our need of him. It is in Christ’s Light that we know Christ meets every need. When the Spirit reveals Christ in us then a sinner will call on Christ for mercy and mercy is what Christ gives. *“If thou knewest the gift of God, and WHO IT IS that saith to thee, thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”*

Amen!