

Series: John

Title: Spiritual Life

Text: John 4: 11-14

Date: February 25, 2021

Place: SGBC, NJ

Our Lord Jesus has begun speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well—he has come to give her spiritual life but she is yet focused only on the temporal.

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. 11: The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? 12: Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? 13: Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Subject: Spiritual Life

Proposition: The living water is spiritual life: the inward life of grace given by Christ which makes us spiritually alive, uniting us with Christ our Life.

There is no spiritual life in us or in anything of this sin-cursed world. The woman was focused on temporal water, a temporal well, temporal thirst.

John 4: 13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

We are born the first time spiritually dead in sins. No water, no life. Nothing of our sinful flesh shall satisfy—*whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again*. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. So every earthly well leaves us thirsting again. Solomon drank from every earthly well there is (Ecc 2). He said,

Ecclesiastes 1: 14: I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

The well of earthly, carnal knowledge leaves us dry with no true spiritual discernment—

Ecclesiastes 12:12...of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

The well of ambition and careers and life pursuits leaves us thirsty for more. The well of every earthly pleasure are only for a season but leaves one thirsty. The well of riches are more of a mirage than a well.

Proverbs 23:5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

The well of man-made religion and form is a dry well which never satisfies. One always must do more works to soothe the conscience. But it is only temporary. He thirsts again. Some get in religion and stay for a time but then off to something else.

Even the well of health soon proves a dry well. All flesh is grass; the goodness thereof is as the flower of grass; the grass withereth and the flower thereof fadeth away. No earthly well gives spiritual life *Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:*

Psalms 39:5...verily every man at his best state *is* altogether vanity. Selah.

From whence then comes this living water?

THE GIFT OF GOD

John 4: 14: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I SHALL GIVE HIM shall never thirst.

Spiritual life is the free gift given by Christ. We do not possess spiritual life as we come into this world. We cannot obtain it by our wisdom, will or works. Spiritual life is not for sale—it cannot be earned. It is the free gift given by God. He did not need her rope or her waterpot, not even that earthly well.

Christ is the well of salvation. He gives the living water. Spiritual life is given freely by God to whomsoever he will. Christ says it is “*water that I shall give*”. God owes nothing to sinners but wrath. God would have been just to give life to none. We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Yet, God freely chose a people by his grace. Oh, let us thank God continually for free, unmerited grace! Had God not chosen to be gracious none would be given spiritual life. But God purposed to save a people for himself. God gives spiritual life to whosoever God is pleased to give it. So those with spiritual life give God all the glory for his sovereign, free grace in electing us unto salvation in his Son.

Oh, the price that had to be paid to give us this water of life freely! The Son of God came in a body like his brethren. Christ freely justified his people by his precious blood. He paid all the debt his people owed to divine justice by laying down his life in our place. The Son of God came in human flesh and fulfilled his own law, satisfied his own justice, and provided his own righteousness for his people freely. Therefore, God our Father has given Christ the glory to freely give spiritual life to those he redeemed. Spiritual life is the free gift of God through Christ Jesus his Son.

Romans 6:23: The *wages* of sin is death BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Christ has this living water because he is God of very God. HE is the Life; his Righteousness is eternal; He is life Everlasting. He is the Mediator—“Jesus Christ” means Savior Anointed—his office is Savior and his qualification for that office is God the Father anointed him. He was appointed by the Father from eternity to give life and grace to those given him of the Father.

John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

Having finished the work of redeeming his people, now, from his throne in glory he sends the Spirit to his redeemed to give life and gifts us with all the gifts of his grace.

Psalm 68: 18: Thou hast ascended on high, thou haste led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

But we see how spiritually dead we are by nature in that carnal men accuse God of unrighteousness for giving life to some and not all. Christ said, *“Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?”* (Matthew 20:15)

Romans 9: 14: What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15: For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16: So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

EVERLASTING LIFE WITHIN

John 4: 14: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be IN HIM a WELL of water SPRINGING UP into EVERLASTING LIFE.

The water Christ gives makes us never thirst because it is life within us personally. It is life continually springing up. It is everlasting life.

Christ gives true spiritual life within. It is Christ within—*the water that I shall give him shall be in him*. The Holy Spirit enters and creates a new spirit within. Christ the Life is formed within. He abides within us in Spirit. His living word liveth and abideth within us forever. He never takes his Spirit and his Life from us—*the water that I shall give him shall be in him*.

Isaiah 41:18: I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

The life of Christ is within us *as a well of water springing up*. There is a spring by my home in Arkansas that has been bubbling up since I was a child. That is the metaphor. Spiritual life is of Christ's fulness—it is being inseparable united with Christ.

John 17:23: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;

Spiritual life is being one in Christ's righteousness and one in his holiness. We are made perfect in one, in Christ. So this living water never runs dry, it springs up as an ever-flowing spring out of his fulness

Isaiah 35:7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water:

He abounds toward us with grace but his fulness is never diminished in the least. The cold of trial cannot freeze up this spring. The heat of this world's reproach cannot dry it up. He gives grace upon grace—grace for grace—he giveth more grace. He makes us truly cast all—ALL—our care on him. In the new spirit we truly pray. We truly confess our sins, truly worship him and walk after him from the new heart, new spirit!

The water he gives is *everlasting life*.

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Brethren, the life he created in us at regeneration is the life we shall have for eternity—only without this body of death

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

TO SINNER AND SAINT

Has he revealed himself to any here so that you are thirsty for this living water? He said to the woman *if you knew who speaks to you, you would have asked me and I would give you living water*. Has he made you know you have no life in you only sin—a dry well? Has he made you know he is Life? Do you thirst—for mercy, for righteousness, for free forgiveness—thirst to know Christ and be found in him. Come ask, he freely gives to every sinner who comes empty asking for mercy.

For us who God has given this water of everlasting life, Christ said, *“he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”* God will keep us knowing that Christ alone is our Life. We have a sin-nature so at times we grow too fond of these earthly wells. So our sovereign God graciously dries them up. We are shaken at first. By this we find how much we were putting confidence in dry wells: in outward things, earthly things, fleshly forms, wells which shall never satisfy.

But by his Spirit within springing up into everlasting life he quenches our thirst with HIMSELF, with his living word, his gospel, with his abiding Spirit. He keeps us knowing he alone is our Life

Isaiah 12:3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

He continually renews us inwardly to say from a true heart,

Psalm 73: 25: Whom have I in heaven *but thee?* and *there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.* 26: My flesh and my heart faileth: *but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*

When he works this for us, as painful as it may be at first, afterward we thank God saying, “Thou hast satisfied my mouth with good things; so that my youth is renewed as the eagle’s.”—with the living water springing up into everlasting life.

Amen!