

Review

To get us started this week let's review.

- What did we talk about last week?

Launch

Over the next few weeks we are going to begin looking at John's recorded experience of Jesus. To get this kicked off we are going to start in John 4 this week. But before we do that consider the following question:

- When was a time in your life you remember being the most thirsty?

Well today we are going to see what we learn about Jesus and being thirsty. To get us started let's pray and ask God to be with us during our time.

Discussion

Read verses 1-10

- Why do you think Jews had no dealings with Samaritans?
- Ok to fully answer that question and give us a little context for this section let's read what two commentators have to say about the Jewish/Samaritan situation:

"When the King of Assyria defeated the northern kingdom of Israel and captured Samaria there in 722-21BC he deported the Israelites to Assyria and the cities of Medes (modern Iraq and Iran). Then Samaria, northern Israel, was fatefully resettled by alien peoples, and here we can give a synthesis of the 2 Kings 17 report: "The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria in place of the people of Israel; they took possession of Samaria, and settled in its cities. When they settled there they at first didn't worship the Lord but following such providential disasters the king of Assyria was moved to return one of Israel's priests to teach the settlers to law of the Lord. He taught them but polytheism followed."

"John Chrysostom summarizes the situation concisely: "The Jews after their return from the captivity entertained a jealousy of the Samaritans, whom they regarded as aliens, and enemies; and the Samaritans did not use all the Scriptures, but only the writings of Moses, and made little of the Prophets. They claimed to be of Jewish origin, but the Jews considered them Gentiles, and hated them, as did the rest of the Gentile world.""

- To help put ourselves in the shoes of the woman, let's brainstorm some modern day scenarios that are similar to this. What modern day examples can you imagine where people of opposing groups that find themselves interacting?
- Let's continue reading to see what Jesus does in such a tense setting.

Read verses 10-15

- If you were in the woman's situation, how do you think you would have understood Jesus offer of living water?

- Though Jesus' offer of living water must have come off as a little confusing, what do you think she would have found most appealing about Jesus' offer?
- Ok, so the woman, probably skeptical but sufficiently curious, finally accepts Jesus' offer. Let's see how he responds.

Read verses 16-26

- How would you feel if you were the woman and your sin was called out publicly?

Donald Miller, the author of *Blue Like Jazz*, sometimes presents his audiences with the following terrifying scenario: Imagine waking up one morning to find that all of your dark hidden sin had been plastered all over the front page of the local newspaper... with pictures! He goes on to argue that though this sounds terrifying this might actually be the best thing that ever happened to us.

Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

- It is interesting to consider how Jesus directs the conversation. Why do you think Jesus, after the woman accepts His offer of living water, asks her about her husband? What do Jesus' thoughts on water have to do with her interactions with men?
- The main thrust and the good news of this story is that Jesus pursues a woman with a seemingly unquenchable thirst and offers her a way to be satisfied. He doesn't just point out that what she has been going to won't satisfy her. Read the follow passage that John records a few chapters later in his Gospel to help us see what exactly Jesus is offering instead.

Read John 7:37-39:

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- What is the living water that Jesus is ultimately trying to offer the woman?
- In the book of Galatians we learn that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Jesus says that if a person will simply ask He will fill us with his Spirit and produce this fruit in us. If these 9 fruit of the spirit were true of a person's life how might the person be "satisfied" and no longer "thirsty"?
- Ok lets read the final section.

Read verses 27-30

- Why do you think John included the detail about the woman leaving her water jar?
- Now that we have a good picture of Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well, let's talk about what this means for us today.

Apply

- In what ways do you experience “thirst”? What do you run to instead of Jesus to satisfy you? (relationships, media, sports, alcohol, food, image, others approval, new purchases)
- What would it look like for you to find satisfaction in Jesus this week instead of the things that leave you thirsty?
- Lets finish our time in prayer.

Pray

In the passage Jesus simply tells the woman to ask. Praying for yourself and those with you, let's ask Jesus to:

- Reveal the things that we have been running to to satisfy us that don't.
- Fill us with His Spirit that we would have the fruit of the Spirit and experience satisfaction in Him.