

Returning to the Source

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." – John 4:15

John tells the story of Jesus stopping at a well in Samaria, where he meets a woman who has come to draw water in the heat of the day. As they talk, Jesus shifts the conversation from physical thirst to something much deeper. He offers "living water" that becomes a spring of eternal life within those who receive it.

Throughout the history of civilization, there has always been a need to access fresh water. Water is one of our greatest necessities. Jesus, however, calls us to have a greater and deeper thirst. He knows that access to water is important, and that it was for the woman and many others a daily task to go and retrieve it. Typically, the retrieval happened in the morning, and maybe again near the end of the day, to make sure each had what was needed. Going to get what is needed was an important part of what kept the people alive, and their way of life going.

We sometimes take the notion of daily retrieval for granted in our modern age of indoor plumbing. We turn on the faucet, and there is water. We don't often worry about running out, and we believe that we have this wellspring forever, or at least as long as we pay the water bill. Yet, we know we need the water. Just as our bodies cannot live on yesterday's water, our souls cannot thrive on yesterday's prayer or yesterday's worship.

Jesus knows our need as well, and I believe he is still offering us something deeper than we might realize, and calling us back to a daily retrieval of it. The wellspring of life that Jesus offers doesn't quench our physical thirst or need, but it does give us something more. It gives us the life that is abundant and eternal. It is the wellspring of love that is found deep within for those who have accepted the grace of God's love and forgiveness. Even though this wellspring is within, we are still called to be aware of it, and daily retrieve it. We nurture the flow of this spiritual water of God's love within through the practices of faith. Through prayer, Bible study, worship, and holy conversations.

Jesus tells us that there is a wellspring within, but if we don't retrieve it how can it bubble up?

The deeper question may be, have we gotten comfortable in our retrieval methods? We may be spending time in Bible Study, or coming to worship, and even engaging in a Sunday School class. Yet, there could still be a thirst for more. The wellspring that gushes up, I believe moves us to go with God's leading, to move with the urging of the Holy Spirit to offer this water to others. When we continually drink from Christ's living water, it doesn't stay contained within us. Springs don't exist for themselves. They overflow. The love, grace, mercy, and hope we receive become gifts we naturally begin sharing with others who are thirsty for God's love.

How are you returning each day to the living water Christ freely offers?

Prayer: God, you have poured your blessings into me. You have filled me with your love. Let my cup overflow so that I may become a wellspring to others that leads them to the life that is now and everlasting. Amen.

Grace & Peace,
Sam