

LESSON #10 - THE WATER OF LIFE - JOHN 4: 14-26

COMING TO THE WATERS - The Lord Jesus has said COME TO THE WATERS to many unusual people under many unusual circumstances. His is an invitation that we are proud to share throughout our own neighborhood and throughout the world.

THE PRAYER - Dear Lord Jesus, we give thanks that You are not a respecter of persons. Your time among us was spent redeeming the entire world from sin, death and Satan. Empower us, your servants to go forward, carrying Your invitation to "COME TO THE WATERS." We ask it in Your Name. Amen.

PARCHED HEARTS - ILLUSTRATION - It was during the depression that a man felt very much alone and uncared for. He had little hope until the day he saw a little girl come out of a house that had a heavy, iron gate. The gate was open when she departed, but it swung shut and automatically locked behind her. A little frightened, the girl tried to get back into her yard, but was unable to release the latch of the gate. She pounded on the gate as hard as she could. Then she tried kicking. Nothing worked. Then the girl began to cry as if her heart would break. The sound of that cry brought the girl's mother who picked up her child and calmed her. The man moved closer so he could hear the mother say, "Didn't you know I would come? It's all right now."

THOUGHT: That little girl was like every unsaved man, woman and child in this world. Their conscience tells them that they can't get back home to heaven. Sin is the gate that bars the way. They can pound and kick, but it won't make any difference. The door can only be opened when our beloved Savior comes to us and brings us in.

FIRST APPLICATION: That was certainly the way it was when Jesus met an "overly married" lady at Jacob's well in Samaria. She, like so many others before and since, was lost and alone. She needed to hear the Savior's invitation to "Come to Him, the Water of Life." Let's refresh ourselves with this beautiful story. You will find the text in John 4. Please answer the questions.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH - HUMANKIND'S THIRST - John 4

VERSE	QUESTION	ANSWER
v. 6.....	What is unusual about the time?	It was the hottest time of the day (Noon) (Women usually socialized at the well together.)
v. 9.....	What is "strike 1" against the lady?	She was a Samaritan
v. 17.....	What is "strike 2"?	She has been around a lot.
v. 7.....	What does Jesus ask?	For a drink of water.
v. 10.....	What does Jesus offer?	He offers living water.
v. 15.....	What does the lady think of Jesus' offer?.....	She doesn't have to go to the well.
v. 29.....	What conclusion does this lady have of Jesus?	He is the Messiah, the Savior.

THIRST FOR AN ANSWER: What are some of the ways that people in this world duplicate the mistakes of this woman?

v. 5.....	.....	They think they can get by on their own.
v. 15.....	.....	They want physical blessings rather than spiritual.
v. 17.....	.....	They think they can cover their sins from God.
How does Jesus cut through these mistakes?		
v. 7.....	.....	Jesus comes to them where they are.
v. 14.....	.....	He tells them what they really need.
v. 18.....	.....	He lets them know He sees their sins and wishes to love them.

In this story we see Jesus coming to a person who should have been despised for any number of reasons. The average Jew would not have asked for a drink of water from this woman. Thankfully

**ISAIAH 55:1 "COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY, COME TO THE WATERS
GROUP BIBLE STUDIES - TEACHER'S PACKET - LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

Jesus is not average anything. He is the Son of God Who has come to seek and save the lost. Look at some of these Scripture verses and see other criminals that God summoned.

2. SCRIPTURE SEARCH - DEEP DRINKING

VERSE	PERSON	SIN
Exodus 2: 11-12	Moses	He was a murderer, but God made him into a deliverer.
Acts 9: 14, 15	Saul/Paul.....	He was a murder that God would forgive and use for a good purpose.
Matthew 26: 75	Peter.....	He denied Jesus three times, but became an apostle (1 Peter 1: 1)

THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION: - These fellows are only representative of a Scriptural truth: that when God tells us the story of an individual, He does so to point out how He can take a sinner and remake Him into a forgiven saint. What were the sins these people were guilty of:

1. David: ADULTERY 2. Abraham: DOUBTING GOD'S PROTECTION 3. Thomas: DOUBTING

Jesus' invitation to drink from the waters of life is a wonderful gift that is open to all...the most pitiful, the ugliest, the saddest, the most decadent of us. In Jesus, we find absolute protection from our old enemies of sin and death. The American Falls, at Niagara Falls, New York, drops 180 feet to the river below. Some people visit a place called the Cave of the Winds. The guides robe these visitors from head to toe in rain gear and then lead them under the falls. Eventually they reach that spot where they can see thousands of tons of water right before their face. The waters rush with a thunderous roar and a blinding splash of spray and mist.

1. What would happen if you moved directly under the water?.....You would be killed.
 1a. What is the condition of those who remain in their sins?.....They will die eternally.
 2. What is your condition in the cave?.....You are safe.
 2a. What is the condition of those who are in Jesus? They are safe. Nothing can hurt them.

SHARING THE SAV(I)OR (If you have time in your lesson or wish to work at home)

WHO ARE SOME PEOPLE YOUR CHURCH COULD REACH? WHAT CAN BE DONE?

EXAMPLE: Delinquents, Different nationalities, Unchurched We can help you set up a program

A FINAL STORY: Just a few moments ago, we talked about Niagara falls. Did you know that Niagara Falls once stopped? It's true. Years ago, the situation and circumstances were just right to allow an ice dam to form all the way across the river. When that happened, the waters failed, the rainbow disappeared, the roar was hushed.

QUESTIONS: Do you think it would be possible for God's love to be 'stopped up'?__ YES __ NO
 Do you think it is possible for God's people to avoid witnessing to Jesus?.....__ YES __ NO
 What are two ways you can witness: Personal Invitation, Supporting your church
 Can you think of any person you won't witness to?__ YES __ NO
 Will you witness to that person? __ YES __ NO

THANKS FOR THE WATERS - Dear Lord, once I stood before you covered with a multitude of sins. Because of what You have done for me, I am no longer dirty. You have washed me and made me clean. Never let any prejudice stop me from reaching out to those who need to know of Your love. Let me share Jesus, crucified, risen and caring. Amen.