

The LIVING WATER

We want to focus on one thing about the living water that was given to the Samaritan Women

The water That Cleanses

Before Christ can do anything he must take us out of the environment we are in

- It's impossible to clean something in an unclean environment

Ezekiel 36:24-30

²⁴ For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. ²⁸ Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. ³⁰ And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations.

Psalm 42

- ¹ As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.**
- ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?**
- ³ My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, "Where is your God?"**

Animals follow instinct – they don't think about what they do – it's all habitual

Are we like that in our relationship with God! Is it instinct or Forced – or is it based on flavor when times are bad or good, is it based on socialising etc.

What is your Desire for the living water that David the psalmist had

Is God in your life a luxury or a necessity, water is life giving, its everlasting, its quenching it's a source of life.

My Desire for God should be based on instinct.

DO WE THIRST?

WHAT DO WE THIRST FOR?

Jeremiah 2:13

For My people have committed two evils:

They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters,

And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.

A fountain is dynamic – overflowing – its living water continually flows out – an inbuilt engine

The cistern is non living, needs to be filled – that's ideal the case Jeremiah speaks about is a broken cistern.

No matter how much we pour water into it – it just pours out – we never get enough water.

Do we thirst for God – The living Fountain!

Or

Do we thirst for the World – Fill the void within with worldly desires – entering university, degree, job, promotion, car, house, family – best case scenario.....but we still feel void!

We as youth need to understand that life is more than that initial buzz or thrill.

The cracks in the cistern are the sins that we try to hide – something I cannot do without

The water you pour into your cistern with cracks has no life – it is bitter

Let's take a look at the Israelites

Exodus 15:22-25

²² So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they *were* bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. ²⁴

However the lords water, the water the lord gives is sweet – its living!

"And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ²⁵ So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made sweet".

Two Contemplations

Moses threw the tree into the water

Two Contemplations

1. If we remember the cross of Christ it was thrown into the world for its salvation, something that was eternal.

The second contemplation

2. In the gospel of John Christ refers to himself as the vine and we are the branches, the vine was thrown into the murky waters at the incarnation and it gave life to all who ever drinks from it.

Christ wants us to thirst for him, it is sweet water.

It is interesting if we look anywhere in the world there is drought

Not just in Australia, but you have Darfur etc

Thousands of animals dying, and now we are getting to the stage where people are dying from thirst.

However it's like a circus, conservationists are trying to create schemes to save water, the greenies are everywhere etc.

However it's ironic the world is spiritually thirsty for the living water – and the ones that know the source, refuse to take the living water that is given freely.

Now HOW DO WE GET THIS LIVING WATER

It's not as complicated as you think!

When I was planning this program and chose the first topic to do living water – the first thing that came to mind was the Samaritan women.

A brief historical background!

Samaria was a town on top of a mountain so it was well protected from wars because they could see anyone coming up from either side. However there was one problem they had no water supply and the only water supply was to walk several miles until they reached Jacobs well.

The heat of the day meant that most women would arise at dawn take their cisterns and go to the well to draw water

What we notice is that the Samaritan women went at midday because of her reputation as a prostitute which was frowned upon. A Social Outcast

Christ met the women on his way from Judea to Galilee. The distance from Judea to Galilee is about 6-8hrs walk.

Let's Watch the Encounter of Christ with the Samaritan Women – **PLAY VIDEO**

Accessed also on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7lNnvnHrIg>

The first thing we need to learn is that the Samaritan women did thirst but she thirsted in two directions

1st – a real physical thirst because she had to drink – that's why she was at the well

However as we can see if she was given the option of receiving water that would enable her to never come to the well again she would .have gladly taken it. The well for the women was a mean to the ends

John 4:9-10

Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

Sounds Good, Great, Give it to me – I don't have to go to the well anymore

The same with us, imagine if someone says I'll give you something that bypasses all the stages of your life – childhood, adulthood etc

^{2nd} Thirst the women had was a thirst for truth – She went to the well at the time she did because it would be empty, she would have to speak to no one!

But when she got to the well, she saw a man of substance, a man of living water. She started asking a frenzy of questions.

- Do we pray here or there?
- What is the living water?
- Give me the living water?
- Sir I perceive you are a prophet?

Are we this man or woman of substance that when one sees us they want to find the truth, and some would say I'm not Christ

No one said you are but if you have the living water, you imitate Christ as St Paul says imitate me as Imitate Christ

We need to have that spiritual thirst the Samaritan women had

What changed her life was the encounter with Christ! Helped her satisfy her thirst

What was the outcome, her initial encounter with Christ made the water within her overflow

She ran and started preaching about what had happened – **COME AND SEE HIM**

Your thirst for God when satisfied will become a small spring of life powered by the almighty spring of life.

Don't let the thirst of the world distract you from the thirst of eternity.

1. We must revert and focus on the thirst for God
2. We must focus on the Sweetness of God which will quench our spiritual thirst
3. We must be instinctive beings