



IN SEARCH OF TRUE WORSHIPERS

Part 2

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks”

(John 4:23 NIV)

She felt the slightest trickle of hope as she listened to the stranger’s words. *“Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*

She could remember the days when the short walk to Jacob’s well was enjoyable. Walking with friends. Enjoying some laughter. It never used to be such a chore. When had life become so monotonous? The years of hardship and pain had truly taken their toll. Her soul was as dry as the dusty path that led to this well.

John’s gospel doesn’t give us the details of her five marriages or what happened to each of the husbands. The loss could have been due to death or divorce. We simply are not told. Whatever the case, you don’t go through the loss of someone you love without experiencing a range of emotions. Hurt, loneliness, disappointment, anger, frustration, guilt, anxiety, despair, to name a few. Those who have walked through that valley could probably add to that list.

Somewhere along the way, her zest for life had dried up. Hope had slowly evaporated with the loss of each husband until she felt empty and barren inside. Cynicism replaced enthusiasm. “Why get married again,” she had thought. So she didn’t. Going against social propriety, she chose to live with a man instead of marrying him. It fueled the gossip mongers, but she no longer cared.

She had even become somewhat reclusive. Instead of coming to the well with the other women of the city,

she came at a time when she knew others wouldn’t be there. She preferred being alone.

When asked by this stranger for a drink of water, she had made it a racial issue. *“You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?”*

When Jesus had offered her living water, she responded with a note of sarcasm, *“You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?”*

The years of hurt and disappointment and the daily grind of life had worn her down.

An old pastor of many years ago once said that the hardest thing about life is that it is so daily.

All things considered, perhaps that is why she had felt the slightest inkling of hope when Jesus said that those who drank the water that He supplied would never thirst again.

John 4:15 records her response. *“Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”*

Don’t miss the desperation in her words. Anything to keep her from coming to this well everyday would be an improvement to the monotony of her life.

I don’t believe that anything in the scripture is happenstance. Every word is God-breathed. It is no accident that Jesus happened to be at Jacob’s well in Samaria at the same time this woman made her daily trek to get water. Verse 4 simply informs us that “Jesus needed to go through Samaria.”

The words Jesus chose to use were as deliberate as was His presence at this well at this exact time.

If He had chosen to intercept her life in the market place, perhaps He would have spoken of being the bread or meat that would satisfy her hunger. He chose, however, to encounter her at a well, and to offer to quench a thirst that went beyond the physical. The hardships of life had dried her up and like so many others, she hopes external change will make a difference. ***“Give me this water so I won’t get thirsty and have to come to this well any more.”*** (v.15)

Man's tendency is to try to fill his internal emptiness by external means. Many turn to drugs or alcohol or go through a series of illicit superficial relationships. Some go from job to job thinking that the next one will bring them the fulfillment they long for.

The Samaritan woman took His words literally. The idea of never having to come to this well again appealed to her. She thought that an external change in her life was the answer. Jesus, of course, wasn't speaking of actual water. He was offering her a relationship that, unlike others she had known, would not leave her disappointed and hurt.

In His search for true worshipers, God looks for those who sense an emptiness in their lives and long for fulfillment. Those who are self-satisfied never sense a need for God.

He then will intercept us in the midst of our routine and offer us what only He can supply.

Perhaps John, when he penned the closing words of Revelation, thought of this scene at Jacob's well as he wrote down God's final invitation to man that is found in the Bible.

"Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life."

If you sense an emptiness in your life, why not give the One who knows you inside and out the chance to fill that void. His invitation still stands. If you sense a thirst, let Him be the One to quench it. The old gospel song is right, "Only Jesus Can Satisfy Your Soul."

Just some Food For Thought...

~ Pastor Frank



ONLY JESUS CAN SATISFY YOUR SOUL

Lanny Wolfe

The world will try to satisfy
that longing in your soul,
You may search the wide world over but you'll
be just as before.
You'll never find true satisfaction
until you've found the Lord,
For only Jesus can satisfy your soul.

*Only Jesus can satisfy your soul
And only He can change your heart
And make you whole;
He'll give you peace you never knew
Sweet love and joy and Heaven too,
For only Jesus can satisfy your soul.*

If you could have the fame and fortune
all the wealth you could obtain,
Yet you have not Christ with-in
Your living here would be in vain;
There'll come a time when death will find you,
riches cannot help you then,
So come to Jesus for only He can satisfy.

*Only Jesus can satisfy your soul
And only He can change your heart
And make you whole;
He'll give you peace you never knew
Sweet love and joy and Heaven too,
For only Jesus can satisfy your soul.*