

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

### **Living Water John 4:10-14**

This morning's Antelope Valley Press reported that there had been three murder suicides in the past five days in the Antelope Valley. Certainly each of these incidents was tragic but one of these incidents particularly stood out to me.

The particular murder suicide that stood out to me the most occurred in Palmdale early in the week. A man apparently distraught over marital problems shot and killed his two daughters and then turned the gun on himself. Why did this murder suicide stand out to me more than the others? The man responsible for this tragic event was a professed born again Christian.

Can a true born-again Christian become distraught? Yes! Can a true born-again Christian actually be so distraught that he could orchestrate a murder suicide? Yes! It is theoretically possible and perhaps in this case all too real but this does not change the basic fact. And what is the basic fact?

People who are born again should not expect to live lives filled with a sense of desperation but rather a sense of well being and hope. This should be the expectation of people who are born again. Remember the words of Paul to the Philippian church in **Philippians 4:4**. He told them, "**Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.**"

Will life at times be difficult? Of course! Will there be disappointments? Of course! But in the midst of these things there should be this overriding sense of confidence that everything is well with our soul, there should be an overriding sense of hope. And this sense of well-being and hope, this joy in the Lord, should be able to take us through whatever challenges we are facing no matter how difficult those things might be. Certainly we should never expect that a born again Christian would become so desperate that they would be responsible for orchestrating a murder suicide.

And this leads us back to the passage that we began to examine last week. The passage that we began to examine last week was **John 4:1-26**. This passage records for us Christ's interaction with a Samaritan woman. And what exactly led up to this interaction?

Jesus though ministering in Judea at the end of **John 3** felt compelled to travel with His disciples back to the area of Galilee. He did this according to **John 4:1** because He knew that the Pharisees had heard He was making and baptizing more disciples than John the Baptist. And since they were not particularly fond of the baptizing ministry of John the Baptist based on **John 1:19-28** it would not have taken very long for the Pharisees to view Jesus and His ministry in that very same negative light if He remained in Judea since His ministry was very similar to John's ministry.

Jesus therefore felt for strategic reasons that it would be in His best interest to leave Judea with His disciples and return to the area of Galilee before a problem developed between Him and the Pharisees.

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

After the apostle John tells us that Jesus left Judea with His disciples to travel to Galilee in **John 4:3** he then tells us in **John 4:4** that "**He had to pass through Samaria.**" But why did He have to pass through Samaria? He did not have to pass through Samaria because it was the only route. He did not have to pass through Samaria because the Pharisees were chasing Him. Rather He had to pass through Samaria out of divine necessity.

Who was Jesus? Jesus according to **John 9:5** was the light of the world and therefore He needed to shine His light on people outside the mainstream of the Jewish faith. And this is the reason why He had to pass through Samaria on His way to Galilee. He had to pass through Samaria on His way to Galilee because he had purposed to shine His light on a group of Jewish outcasts called the Samaritans.

And when did Christ on this particular journey through Samaria choose to shine His light? It was when He was bone weary tired, resting beside Jacob's well near the city of Sychar. It was there while His disciples were in the city buying food that He chose to shine his light on one lone Samaritan woman who had come to the well to draw water.

How did this encounter begin? When she came to the well to draw water He asked her for a drink. His request for a drink of water was not only made in order to meet His physical need but to open up a conversation. And was He successful? Absolutely! Look at her response. **John 4:9** says, "**The Samaritan woman therefore said to Him, 'How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?'** She responded in this way because in order to give Him a drink she would have had to use her bucket to draw the water. And because she knew that from the standpoint of Jewish religious authorities that using her bucket to draw water for Him to drink would defile Him she was very surprised that He would have in fact reached out to her in the way that He did.

The door of opportunity is now wide open before Jesus. And even though He was bone weary tired He was not going to let His weariness be used as an excuse not to minister to her need. Hopefully as I shared with you last week we might take His example as a challenge to our own lives. The Lord has not called us to a life of ease but of faithful service and hopefully we would consider this calling not only our responsibility but also our privilege.

And this brings us to the passage that we will be examining this weekend. Let me read for you **John 4:10-14**, "**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.'** (11) **She said to Him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do you get that living water? (12) You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?'** (13) **Jesus answered and said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; (14) but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.'**

Last week we examined the request that Christ made of this Samaritan woman in John 4:1-9. This weekend we will be examining the *offer* that Christ made to this Samaritan woman in John 4:10-14.

## Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

My hope for this message as we consider the offer of Christ to this Samaritan woman is that we will be able to see the height, the breadth, and the depth of what is ours in Christ. My hope for this message is that we will not focus on the daily pressures and disappointments of this life but rather on the abundant supply made available to us in Christ.

Let us begin by looking at **John 4:10**, "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.'"

The Samaritan woman's question in John 4:9 assumed something that was not true. She assumed that Jewish convictions and biases would have prevented Him from asking her for a drink. This was an assumption that she had made. But this assumption was false. Jesus did not share the same mistaken convictions and biases of certain Jews.

But if her assumption about Jesus was false then what was the truth? The Samaritan woman obviously needed some help. Therefore Jesus in responding to the Samaritan woman's question, which was based on a false assumption, seeks to point her toward the truth. What did He feel that she needed to know?

She needed to know about the gift of God. Let us read the verse one more time, "**Jesus answered and said to her, 'If you knew the gift of God.'**" The word for "gift" (DOREA) denotes "free gift" stressing its gratuitous character. Jesus wanted this woman to know that there was a very special gift that was available to her that had absolutely no strings attached. How was she going to get this special gift?

Let us continue to read the verse, "**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.'**" Jesus makes it very clear to the Samaritan woman that God's gift was available through Him if she by faith would simply ask. And what exactly was this free gift that was available from Him if she simply asked?

The free gift that was available through Him that she could have received if she had simply asked was "living water." How should we understand Christ's reference to living water?

We should understand Christ's reference to "living water" as a reference to eternal life (John 3:14-15). Hopefully we remember the words of Jesus to Nicodemus in **John 3:14-15**, "**And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; (15) that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life.**"

But why would Christ refer to the gift of eternal life here **John 4** as living water. Christ referred to the gift as "living water" rather than as "stagnant water" to communicate the positive energy inherent in the gift.

When we come to Christ and receive the gift of eternal life we should expect our lives to change for the better. Does this mean that our problems will somehow miraculously disappear? No, but the way we respond to those problems will be dramatically changed.

## Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Rather than looking at those problems as a threat we will look at those problems as an opportunity by the grace of God to let the light of Jesus to shine in dark places

The Samaritan woman had asked Christ, "**How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman.**" Jesus now in **John 4:10** has pointed out to her that if she had known the gift of God and if she had known who it was that had said to her, "**Give me a drink.**" She would have responded in a totally different way to His request.

Did this Samaritan woman understand what Jesus was saying? Unfortunately she did not. Let us continue to read **John 4:11**, "**She said to Him, ‘Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water?’**"

When Jesus was talking about living water he was talking about eternal life and the positive energy unleashed. He was talking in metaphorical terms.

But obviously the Samaritan woman understood it words literally. Listen to **John 4:11**, "**She said to Him, ‘Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water?’**" Why would she not understand Christ words to be metaphorical? Why would she have understood them to be literal? She did not understand the phrase "living water" metaphorically because that phrase in the time of Christ was commonly understood to refer to water that was fresh or in other words *moving*. So where would this living water typically be found? It would typically be found at springs, in streams and rivers in contrast with stagnant ponds and cisterns. In the area of Sychar the only living water that the people were aware of was in Jacob’s well, which may at that time have been fed by a spring.

This is why the Samaritan woman responded as she did to Christ. In essence she is saying to Him, "You say that you can provide me living water. But how can you provide me with living water when you do not even have the means to draw water up from this well. And if you do not have the means to draw up the living water from this well then where in the world are you going to get this living water that you are offering me? And she seeks to drive this point home by referring to Jacob.

Let us now read **John 4:12**, "**You are not greater than our Father Jacob are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?**"

The woman in John 4:12 is basically saying to Jesus, “If Jacob had to dig a well to obtain living water why should I believe you can *provide* living water without the benefit of this well?” Her response to His attempt to minister could have been discouraging.

But Jesus proves to be unrelenting and goes on to be a little bit more specific. Let me now read for you a portion of **John 4:13-14**, "**Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water (referring to the water from the well) shall thirst again; (14) but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst."** What does Christ reveal to her now that He had not revealed to her earlier?

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that the living water that He is prepared to give will *forever* satisfy the thirst of anyone who would come to Him. What exactly does this mean?

Jesus is not talking about the thirst that characterizes the body of man but rather the thirst that characterizes the *soul* of man when he lacks a personal relationship with God.

When we come to Christ by faith and take the gift that He is offering which is eternal life or in other words in this context "living water" the thirst of our souls is quenched because we have entered into a personal relationship with God.

Should having a personal relationship with God make a difference in our lives? Of course! Remember why Christ referred to the gift of eternal life as "living water?" He did this in order to communicate the positive energy inherent in the gift. But how much positive energy is inherent in the gift that God is prepared to give us through His Son as we drink this living water? It is unlimited.

Let us once again read **John 4:13-14** but this time let us complete these two verses, "**Jesus answered and said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; (14) but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.'**"

When we take the gift that God is offering through His Son there is an unlimited amount of positive energy available to us because the gift that God is offering us through the Son is also in His Son. The unlimited amount of positive energy is unlimited because we have been joined to the life of Christ and His infinite resources. Listen to the words of the Apostle John in **1 John 5:11, "And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son,"**

The living water that Jesus is prepared to give to those who come to Him is not a stagnant pool but rather a well of water springing up to provide them with *unlimited* spiritual resources

### CONCLUSION

Are you thirsty? Is your soul longing to be satisfied? If it is then what do you need to do? You need to come to Christ and ask him for a drink of living water.

How is this done? First of all, you will have to recognize your need. You have to recognize that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself or in other words you must acknowledge that you cannot satisfy your own thirst.

Secondly, you will by faith need to turn from your worldly and fleshly pursuits so that you can humbly reach out and take the gift of living water that He is offering to you, a gift that is made possible through His death, burial and resurrection. And when you take that gift Jesus will enter in your life in the person of the indwelling Holy.

If you have done this then you have that well of water springing up to eternal life in you. And because of this you can drink from it at any moment at any time under any circumstances.

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

Are you thirsty this morning even though this well of water is springing up in you to eternal life? If you are then I would encourage you to once again turn away from your worldly and fleshly pursuits so that you can once again by faith drink and be filled with a wonderful sense of well being and hope in spite of whatever circumstances you might be presently facing.

Perhaps you might like to pray a prayer similar to this one that I came across while preparing for this message.

“Lord Jesus, how I thank Thee that Thou hast not only redeemed me with Thy precious blood, reconciled me to God and established peace between my guilty soul and God my Maker, but I thank thee that Thou are risen from the dead, that at this very moment Thou dost indwell me in the person and power of Thy divine Spirit; that Thou hast never expected of me anything but failure, yet Thou hast given to me Thy strength for my weakness, Thy victory for my defeat, Thyself for all my bankruptcy! I step now by faith, into a future that is limited only what Thou art! To me to live is Christ! For Thy Name’s sake. Amen.”