

Lesson #10

TEACHING OUTLINE

Life of Jesus

“A Divine Encounter with a Woman at a Well John 4: 1 – 42

Principle Truths:

1. We must be willing to take the light of Christ into the darkness.
2. Our prejudice blinds us to the value of all people in God’s eyes.
3. We must be willing to go outside our comfort zone to accomplish great things for God’s kingdom.
4. Every encounter is an open door – a divine opportunity.

Outline:

- I. The Savior at Sychar
- II. The Sinner at Sychar
- III. The Soul Winner at Sychar

Lesson #10
Series 2 – Story 4

A Divine Encounter with A Woman at A Well

John 4:1-42

***JESUS CAME TO OFFER SALVATION AND
ETERNAL LIFE TO ALL PEOPLE.***

Story Outline:

- I. Jesus Avoids Baptism Controversy And Departs For Samaria
- II. Jesus Encounters A Samaritan Woman And Offers Living Water
- III. Jesus Lovingly Reveals The Woman's Sin And Opens Her Heart To Repentance
- IV. Jesus Teaches The Woman About True Worship And Identifies Himself As Messiah
- V. Jesus' Encounter Brings Great Harvest Of Samaritan Souls

Life Application Principles:

1. We must not allow lesser things to deter us from God's greater things.
2. We must be willing to go outside our comfort zone to accomplish great things for God's kingdom.
3. We must be willing to take His light into the darkest places.
4. There are no accidental meetings, only divine appointments planned by an all knowing God.
5. Our prejudice blinds us to the value of all people in God's eyes.
6. Responding to a divine encounter always leads to eternal blessing.
7. Receiving the gospel requires two steps: Repentance is our responsibility and regeneration is God's.
8. Until one admits his need, God is limited to act and regenerate.
9. Worship that is genuine is a joining together of man's spirit with God's spirit.
10. Jesus is always willing to reveal himself to any who earnestly seek Him.
11. A genuine encounter with Jesus always produces a powerful testimony and a passion to share with others.
12. God's uses everything and wastes nothing.

NAME OF JESUS

Devotional Reading

“LIVING WATER”

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.” This quote from Blaise Pascal, a 17th century French philosopher and mathematician, is frequently shared in Christian circles throughout the world today because within his words is found a life changing truth: only God, through Jesus, can fill the longings of the human heart. He alone is able to truly satisfy the thirst for meaning, significance, purpose, peace and joy that lies in the heart of every human being from the moment he was created. Jesus Christ, who is often called the **LIVING WATER**, is actually not the water, but rather He is the source and the channel through which all of God’s satisfying gifts and blessings flow. As Jesus explained to the Samaritan woman:

*“If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked Him and He would have given you **LIVING WATER**. The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is very deep.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’” (John 4:10-11, 13-14)*

By these words Jesus is teaching the Samaritan woman, and us today, an important lesson about WHO He is and WHY He came. To paraphrase His words to the woman Jesus said: *If you understood the gift of God, which is eternal life, and WHO it is that is asking you for a drink of water (Jesus the Messiah), you would have dropped your inadequate, earth-bound water jar and asked Me for a long drink of the water that I give. My water is an eternally flowing and life-giving water. It streams from Me directly into your heart and soul, and it satisfies like nothing else in all the world. Everyone who drinks the physical, material water of the world (or anything the world has to offer) will be thirsty again. But anyone who drinks of the water I give will never thirst again.* That’s why it is called **LIVING WATER**. It will be a fresh and vigorous flow of water gushing forth from Me continuously. John Piper clarifies: *“the reason why you will never be thirsty again is not because one drink is enough, but because one true drink produces a deep well in you for an eternity of drinks.”* My **LIVING WATER**, like a continuous flowing stream, will never run dry. My **LIVING WATER** is so abundant that it will flow into every crevice of your heart. And it is so powerful, so soothing and so refreshing, that it

*will completely satisfy your desperately empty and longing soul. Believe Me when I say, My **LIVING WATER** is the only thing that will fill the God-shaped vacuum in your heart. It is the only means by which you will experience all the blessings of God now and in the life that is to come. (Paraphrase)*

It sounds wonderful doesn't it? To never be thirsty again...EVER! To be truly sated, fully satisfied and at peace, FOREVER! To never again have to return to the inadequate wells of the world only to find that what is in them is a temporary fix and unsatisfactory to quench your thirst. To be able to stop running to and fro, frantically and foolishly searching for that well that may have that something that will once for all fill up the empty place deep within your heart and soul.

It also sounds too good to be true, which it is if you, like the Samaritan woman, think that your thirst is merely a physical problem that you alone must try to solve. And if like her, you believe the answer is found in the wells of the world. However, if you think about thirst as God does, in the spiritual sense, then not only does what Jesus offer sound wonderful, it is wonderful because through Him it is attainable!

To help us further understand WHO this life-giving, heart-sealing, soul-satisfying water actually is, Jesus teaches: *“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever **believes** in Me as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of **living water**.’ Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified” (John 7:37-39).*

Here Jesus makes clear that the Holy Spirit, not Himself, is the **LIVING WATER**. The Holy Spirit is the *“gift from God”* that is imparted into the heart of all who **believe** in Jesus, the Son and from whom all the blessings of God, the Father flow. Jesus further explained to His disciples, *“I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him or knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you”* (John 14:16-17).

The indwelling Holy Spirit of God, that is received by faith in Jesus, is the One who is able to satisfy our deepest needs and longings while we are on earth. When we drink Christ's life-giving water the God-shaped vacuum in our hearts is not only filled, but also sealed over once for all by the Holy Spirit. *“In Him, you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance”* (Ephesians 1:13-14). Although not the living water Himself, Jesus is the only way to the **LIVING WATER**. He is the source,

the fountainhead, from which the Holy Spirit springs forth and flows. Therefore, unless you believe Jesus is God's only Son, repent of your sins, confess *Jesus is Lord* and ask Him to cleanse you and be your Savior, you will never receive the Holy Spirit and the gift of eternal life. And you will never receive and enjoy all the completely satisfying blessings of God. Instead, like the Samaritan woman before she met Jesus, you will always be empty and thirsty and longing for more than this world has to offer. Blinded to the truth, you will be continually looking to the world for satisfaction: trying new things, buying new things, joining in on the latest fads, seeking new adventures and chasing new relationships. Like her, you will be looking for love, joy and peace in all the wrong places. Like her you will be unaware that it is your heart and soul that is thirsty and that Jesus is the only remedy.

Can you relate to the Samaritan woman? Are you searching for that *something* that will quench your thirst and satisfy your soul, but find that despite all your efforts you are still dry and empty inside? Do you have a longing for *something* deep in your heart, but you are unsure of what exactly it is and, even more unsettling, how to obtain it? Are you trying to fill the God-shaped vacuum of your heart with godless things . . . things the world says is the *answer to all your problems*, but find that is just not true? Do you ever feel like you are just *spinning your wheels* and getting nowhere fast in spite of actively pursuing things that you have been told will bring you love, joy, peace, hope, acceptance and satisfaction?

If so, there is only one solution, JESUS. He alone has the power to save you from the life-quenching, heart-breaking, soul-crushing ways of the world that lead to an empty life. In Christ alone the everlasting hope, joy, peace and satisfaction you are looking for is found. He is the key that unlocks the door to the one thing . . . the only thing . . . the *SOMETHING* that will fill the *God-shaped vacuum* of your heart. Jesus Christ is the only way to the **LIVING WATER**. Like the woman of old, you must put down your inadequate earth-bound water jar that is filled with things that will never satisfy. Then, with empty hands, you must draw near to Jesus, the Wellspring of life, so that His **LIVING WATER** can flow into your heart. O friend, open wide the door of your heart and take a long drink of Christ's life-giving water so that you may be sated (filled to overflowing) and satisfied. And be sure to drink often, so that Christ's **LIVING WATER** will flow continuously into your heart that you may be cleansed, refreshed, renewed and filled. Go now! Christ is waiting for you! Drink freely and deeply of the **LIVING WATER** that Jesus Christ bought for you at Calvary and be satisfied!

**“Let the one who is thirsty come;
let the one who desires take the water of life without price.”
Revelation 22:17**

THE DOCTRINE

HOLY SPIRIT

The presence and life giving power of the Person of the HOLY SPIRIT are referred to in the Bible through various metaphors including perhaps the most well known one from John 4, the living water. The Old Testament prophet Hosea however, referred to God's refreshing Spirit through yet another metaphor - the dew upon the earth. In Hosea 14:5 the prophet declares: *"I will be like the dew to Israel."* This particular metaphor indicates the Spirit's power to renew, His overflowing reservoir of spiritual energy, and His on - going presence producing great impact through the life of the Spirit-filled servant of God. A closer examination of the meaning behind these metaphors is helpful in giving insight into this third Person of the Godhead.

His Presence

The morning dew is a source of freshness. It is nature's provision for renewing the face of the earth. It falls at night and without it, vegetation dies. In Exodus 16:14 Moses writes:

"When the layer of dew evaporated, on the surface of the wilderness there was a fine, flake-like thing, as fine as frost on the ground, and when the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. And Moses said, 'This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat.'"

The very provision for nourishment (food) was provided by the dew that fell upon the earth and thereby produced manna – God's *"food"* from heaven. This is the same refreshment John speaks of in the story of the Woman at the Well with His offer of the living water. Just as nature is bathed in dew, the Lord's Spirit renews His people. In Titus 3:5 the same thought of refreshment is connected with the presence and ministry of the **HOLY SPIRIT** and referred to as *"renewal in the life of the believer by the **HOLY SPIRIT.**"*

Many believers do not recognize the vital importance of the heavenly dew in their lives and as a result, they lack freshness, energy and power. Their spirits are withered for lack of dew. Although we recognize the foolishness of a laborer who attempts to work all day without eating, we so often fail to see the futility of a servant of God attempting to minister without eating of the heavenly manna and drinking of the living water. It is simply not sufficient to have spiritual nourishment only occasionally. Every day we must receive the renewing freshness of the **HOLY SPIRIT's** presence and power. You know instantly the difference between your entire being pulsating with the energy of God's

divine life in great contrast to those times of feeling empty, worn out, and weary. It is quietness and stillness that bring the dew. At night when the leaves and grass are still, the plant's pores open up to receive the refreshing and invigorating bath. Likewise, spiritual dew comes when we are still enough to linger in the Master's presence. Isaiah 30:15 expresses it this way: *"In quietness and confidence is your strength."* You must discipline yourself to get still before God, for anxiety and activity will prevent you from receiving the dew. Wait before God until you feel saturated with the dew of His presence. Then move on in your day with the awareness of the freshness and presence of the living Christ.

It is an insightful fact that dew never appears while there is either heat or wind. The temperature must fall, the wind cease, and the air must come to a point of coolness and rest – absolute rest – before the invisible particles of moisture become dew to dampen any plant or flower. The grace of God does not come forth to bring rest and renewal to our soul until we completely reach the point of stillness before Him. *"Be STILL and KNOW that I am God"* (Psalm 46:10) (Cowman, Streams in the Desert; January 30).

His Strength

"For this I labor (often to the point of exhaustion) striving with His power and energy which so greatly works within me." (Colossians 1:29)

In today's culture of advanced technology it takes a lot of energy to keep our world powered up, lit up and filled up. Scientists tell us that humans daily consume about 63,300,000 megawatt-hours of electricity. Approximately half of our energy comes from oil and natural gas, and another quarter comes from coal and nuclear reactors. The remaining 25 percent comes from renewable energy sources. If we put all that together and multiply it by a billion, it still wouldn't equal a split second of the energy God makes available to his children for living a Christ-like life in this world. Paul declared this truth in Galatians when he stated: *"... I strive with His power and energy so greatly working within me"* (v.29). Jesus sends His strength into our souls by the **HOLY SPIRIT** and that's why we are constantly told to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16), to pray in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18); to love in the spirit (Colossians 1:8) and to be in the spirit on the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10). The strength and energy of God within us keeps us moving forward into the will of God for our life. He works in us so powerfully as to give us his own energy for the work to which he calls us. His abiding presence and his unwavering strength are only two of His life giving gifts of empowering the believer. His comfort is yet another.

His Comfort

There comes a time when only God's shoulders are broad enough to carry the weight of our worry. It is often at this point that crushing burdens become carried burdens. As humans our burdens often become greater than our joy. Yoked to Christ however, I can plow my lonely field, walk a straight path, cope with the intolerable, and figure out the impossible. How? God promises to carry me through the comfort of His Spirit. Then having been carried, I am sent on my way strengthened and comforted to help carry another. We must pray – *“Show me when to share Your comfort, Lord, and teach me not to burden one of your special children, if I must bear my own personal burden alone! Show me that Your comfort is always enough!”* *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in every trouble so that we will be able to comfort those who are in trouble with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God”* (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

His Constant Supply

God has made available the opportunity to tap into his ceaseless supply of the Spirit. We never need be depleted spiritually, if we but learn to access the constant supply of his indwelling Spirit - the dew of heaven – the living water – the endless supply. This imagery of *“constant supply”* is painted perhaps most vividly in the writing of the Old Testament prophet, Zechariah. In chapter 4 of his prophecy, God's servant Zechariah was shown a lampstand with 7 oil fed lamps upon it. He saw a bowl full of oil above the lampstand, with pipes feeding down from the bowl into each lamp. The bowl acted as a reservoir of oil and was itself fed by two olive trees which stood to the left and right of the lampstand. The olive trees dripped oil constantly into two receptacles, which fed the oil down into the bowl. The trees fed the bowl; the bowl fed the lamps. The supply was constant and the fires in the lamps burned without ceasing.

In the context of this ancient passage, the lampstand is Zerubbabel, but Zerubbabel typifies any devoted servant of the Lord. Lampstands in the Bible represent various things, but in Matthew 5:15 Jesus used a lampstand to refer to an individual. So the lampstand is you – the individual believer. Jesus exhorted his followers in Luke 12:35, *“Let your waist be girded and your lamps be burning.”* We have only one waist, so the word *“waist”* is referred to in the singular, but Jesus referred to *“lamps”* in the plural, saying that we have multiple *“lamps”* within us. As devoted believers living and serving Christ, we have more than one lamp burning within our hearts – we have seven to be precise (Isaiah 11:1-2; Revelation 1:4). God's design is that each of us burn with the seven holy fires of the **HOLY SPIRIT**. The **HOLY SPIRIT** is revealed as *“seven lamps of fire”* that burn before the throne of God (Revelation 4:5) which is a reference to

Isaiah's prophecy of the seven spirits. In other words, when you are filled with the **HOLY SPIRIT**, you too will burn with seven fires. The foremost lamp is the fire of God's love. The fire of the other six flames are the fires of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord. It is the burning love of God - specifically His righteousness and holiness that fans the flame of the lampstand. When that fire grips our lives, it sets us ablaze with fiery passion and devotion for Jesus along with a merciful compassion for people.

Zerubbabel was Israel's civic leader. He was involved in the task of building the temple of God. Zechariah was Zerubbabel's court counselor. He was given a divine message to encourage Zerubbabel in his building project. God wanted to reveal to Zerubbabel a totally new paradigm for building in the kingdom of God. Most kingdom building is done by visionary leaders who mobilize groups of people to draw upon their strengths and hammer away at the project with all their might until it is finished. God's prophet Zechariah has a divine revelation, however into a far more effective kind of leadership - a style of leadership in which the servant of the Lord derives his effectiveness by drawing upon an inner source - the **HOLY SPIRIT**. As God's servant is fed on the inside by a constant supply of the Spirit, the leader is empowered to lead God's people in the building of the kingdom. Instead of seeing a leader who is spread thin by running in a thousand directions at once, Zechariah saw a leader whose lamps were burning brightly because he is drawing upon a spiritual life-source of power, wisdom, understanding, counsel, love, strength and fear of God.... Is it any wonder that He would declare:

*"NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER, **BUT BY MY SPIRIT**, SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS"* (Zechariah 4:6).

It is interesting in this passage that the storage bowl, which is full of oil, is said to be "above" the lampstand. This means that the oil pours down from the bowl into the seven lamps. Not only does this bowl contain more than enough oil to sustain the lamps, it also supplies each of the lamps with gravity-fed pressure. With the oil pressing down eagerly into each flame, the lamps are not flickering lazily but they are burning fiercely and brightly - they are visible - tangible torches of divine zeal. God is showing Zechariah that it is possible to access such a dynamic flow of divine life that one literally burns with holy zeal before God's throne and before people on earth. What an amazing image this portrays of the Spirit's work in the life of the believer!

To be very personal - see yourself as this lampstand, as a devoted believer who is called by God to provide compassionate leadership in the building of the kingdom of God. As you draw aside into the place of quiet solitude, you open the channels of your heart and allow that oil - the oil of divine life to flow into every chamber of your heart. The quiet

place of your heart is where your lamps are trimmed and where your zeal for Christ is rekindled and renewed until you burn with seven bright, fiery torch like flames. Those who come into contact with you are impacted with your passion for Jesus and your selfless love for people – all people! They realize you have been seared clean by the pure fire of the Spirit – seared clean of your self-serving ambitions and your own personal agenda. Your fire is hot and your flame is pure. Your heart is enthralled with the beauty of Your King. Your interests and affections are for nothing other than your heavenly Father. When you sound a call to build, other believers rally around you enthusiastically because they know you are functioning from the creative power of the Spirit’s “*morning dew*,” where you received your divinely downloaded instructions and guidance directly from the King. Your productivity becomes disproportionate to the abundance of your resources. The work accelerates at a pace that is faster than seems possible with the limited resources at your disposal. Why? Because you are not just working by the weight and power of human resources; you’re operating in the energy and flow of the **HOLY SPIRIT** as God Himself works with you and in you. You have found the God – zone! Financial resources come out of nowhere; volunteers come out to help; donations arrive to supply your need, doors open where only walls existed before; believers are joined together in kingdom purposes; sinners are in awe of the grace of God that rests upon this unique – spirit -filled community of believers. And it was all unlocked because a simple servant leader came out of the place of solitude on fire for God – empowered by the **HOLY SPIRIT!**

Zechariah had one consuming question of the angel who brought him this revelation. Zechariah asks the angel no less than three times, “*Tell me about those two olive trees. What are the olive trees?*” (vs. 4, 11, 12). The angel’s answer is: “*These are the two ‘anointed one’ who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth*” (v 14). The two olive trees are **the word** and **the Spirit**. We need both – mixed together and flowing continuously into our spirit, if we are to build the kingdom through the power of God. When the Spirit of God moves upon His word and speaks it into the depths of your being, you will come alive with a holy fire! That’s why when Jesus revealed Himself to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, opening the Scriptures to them regarding Himself through the resurrected power of the **HOLY SPIRIT** -- those disciples later declared, “*Did not our hearts BURN within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us?*” (Luke 24:32). When the Spirit empowered word ministers to your heart, you too will burn for Him!

The quiet place of your heart is where we draw upon the life of the word and the presence and power of the Spirit. It is the place where we open our spirits to Him so that a greater flow of His oil might make its way to our lamps. The pipes that carry the oil from the bowl to the seven lamps are critical to the degree of light emitted from the lampstand. If

the pipes are open and unclogged, oil will flow freely to the flames of our hearts. Then this mixture of oil (the word and the Spirit) will flow into our hearts and set us ablaze for Him, the kingdom advances in and through our lives in staggering proportions. The issue is not, “*Word harder!*” The issue is, “*Get the oil!*” The secret is: Apply yourself to enlarging your connection to the Source of divine oil. The more this oil flows into your inner being, the brighter your lamps will blaze before God and men.

Nothing is more dangerous to the kingdom of darkness than a man or woman who has found the unceasing wellspring of heaven’s life – the living water! When the servant of the Lord is fed from this inner flow of oil and his seven lamps are torches of flaming zeal for Christ, no force of hell can extinguish this flame. Even if hell tries to douse the flame with the floods of Satan’s breath, this fire is fed by an internal source. Nothing external can quench it. What a marvelous secret this is! John Wesley said it this way: “*Get on fire for God and people will come to watch you burn!*” This is the power of the **HOLY SPIRIT** of God at work in the life of the believer! Oh, how we need to understand this teaching and open ourselves to the transforming power of it.

Questions for Reflection

Read John 4:1-12

1. Who were the Samaritans? What was their religious background? Why were they despised and avoided by the Jews? (Skim 1 Kings 16:21-24 and 2 Kings 17 for help)
2. Why do you think Jesus chose to go through Samaria on His way from Judea back to Galilee?
3. Jesus broke through several cultural barriers in order to share the truth with the Samaritan woman. What did He do? What does this tell you about Who Jesus is and Why He came? (review John 3:16-17)
4. How willing are you to allow the Lord to lead your steps when the assignment challenges your prejudice(s)?
5. In v.10, what does Jesus reveal about Himself to the Samaritan woman? What does He offer her? How does she respond?
6. What do you think Jesus means by the phrase “*living water?*” (see John 6:35, 7:37-39)

Read John 4:13-18

7. What does Jesus say is different about the water He offers from the water the world offers? What is the result of drinking His Living Water?
8. Have you, like the Samaritan woman, ever tried to find meaning and purpose in your life from the world? What kinds of things have you pursued? Did they satisfy?
9. Read vs.16-17. Why do you think Jesus wanted the Samaritan woman to know that He knew about her immoral lifestyle? What does this teach you about God's requirement for salvation and eternal life? What ongoing sins are interrupting the flow of Christ's living water in your own life?

Read John 4:19-26

10. What is the connection between knowledge and worship that Jesus speaks of in v.22? How does that help you understand what it means to "*worship the Father in spirit and truth?*"
11. In v.26, what does Jesus say about Himself to confirm His identity to the Samaritan woman? (See Exodus 3:13-14). Why do you think that might have such a great impact on her understanding?

Read John 4:27-42

12. What is symbolic in the phrase "*the woman left her water jar*" in v. 28?
13. Where did she go and what did she do after leaving Jesus at the well? How does this relate to Romans 10:10 and 17?
14. What impact has a personal encounter with Jesus had on your testimony and witness?

15. What kind of food is Jesus referring to in vs.32 and 34? How is doing God's will both nourishing and satisfying?

16. What lessons in evangelism—sharing the Good News—do you learn from Jesus in this passage? What about from the Samaritan woman?

LIVING WATER

What kinds of things are you, or have you tried in the past, to fill the God-shaped vacuum in your heart? How has this lesson regarding Christ's LIVING WATER impacted your heart, transformed your thinking, and changed your actions this week?

SALVATION CHALLENGE

Have you come to believe in your heart that Jesus is the Savior sent from God to deliver you from your sins? Have you received Him by faith, repented and confessed Him as your Savior and Lord? Don't delay! Come today to the Wellspring of Life. Drink deeply of His Living Water and be satisfied forever.