

“TAKE 10”- Worship While Away! (Sunday, March 12, 2023)

Share:

Turn the tap and water comes out.

Clean, refreshing water quenches our thirst.

Stop at the market, twist open the cap.

Spring water crosses our lips and our craving is satisfied.

Step outdoors. Look up.

The clouds dampen our faces and nourish the earth.

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.”

After a time, we all thirst again.

“But whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.”

Please give us this water that we may never be thirsty again.

Come see the one who turns our thinking and our world upside down.

Come see and experience the love that knows no bounds.

Praise be to God!

Praise be to Jesus, whose life draws from the well of God’s dreams.

Praise be to Christ Jesus, whose love and justice quenches our thirst with living water.

Amen.

Read these words from a song

Ho, All Who Thirst

[Refrain]

***Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and all whose souls are parched, and weary, come and drink!***

***Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
And from your heart will flow, a never-failing spring!***

***Why forsake the Lord, the fount of living water,
choosing broken cups that cannot be filled? [Refrain]***

***For the Lamb will be our shepherd and will guide us
to the well-springs of, the water of life. [Refrain]***

***All who come may take this gift of living water.
They will thirst no more, for they shall be filled. [Refrain]***

Read this scripture from worship:

John 4:5-42

⁴⁻⁶ To get there, Jesus had to pass through Samaria. He came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon.

⁷⁻⁸ A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, “Would you give me a drink of water?” (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, “How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” (Jews in those days wouldn’t be caught dead talking to Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered, “If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking *me* for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water.”

11-12 The woman said, "Sir, you don't even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this 'living water'? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?"

13-14 Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life."

15 The woman said, "Sir, give me this water so I won't ever get thirsty, won't ever have to come back to this well again!"

16 He said, "Go call your husband and then come back."

17-18 "I have no husband," she said.

"That's nicely put: 'I have no husband.' You've had five husbands, and the man you're living with now isn't even your husband. You spoke the truth there, sure enough."

19-20 "Oh, so you're a prophet! Well, tell me this: Our ancestors worshiped God at this mountain, but you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place for worship, right?"

21-23 "Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship guessing in the dark; we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God's way of salvation is made available through the Jews. But the time is coming—it has, in fact, come—when what you're called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter.

23-24 "It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration."

25 The woman said, "I don't know about that. I do know that the Messiah is coming. When he arrives, we'll get the whole story."

26 "I am he," said Jesus. "You don't have to wait any longer or look any further."

27 Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked. They couldn't believe he was talking with that kind of a woman. No one said what they were all thinking, but their faces showed it.

28-30 The woman took the hint and left. In her confusion she left her water pot. Back in the village she told the people, "Come see a man who knew all about the things I did, who knows me inside and out. Do you think this could be the Messiah?" And they went out to see for themselves.

31 In the meantime, the disciples pressed him, "Rabbi, eat. Aren't you going to eat?"

32 He told them, "I have food to eat you know nothing about."

33 The disciples were puzzled. "Who could have brought him food?"

34-35 Jesus said, "The food that keeps me going is that I do the will of the One who sent me, finishing the work he started. As you look around right now, wouldn't you say that in about four months it will be time to harvest? Well, I'm telling you to open your eyes and take a good look at what's right in front of you. These Samaritan fields are ripe. It's harvest time!

36-38 "The Harvester isn't waiting. He's taking his pay, gathering in this grain that's ripe for eternal life. Now the Sower is arm in arm with the Harvester, triumphant. That's the truth of the saying, 'This one sows, that one harvests.' I sent you to harvest a field you never worked. Without lifting a finger, you have walked in on a field worked long and hard by others."

39-42 Many of the Samaritans from that village committed themselves to him because of the woman's witness: "He knew all about the things I did. He knows me inside and out!" They asked him to stay on, so Jesus stayed two days. A lot more people entrusted their lives to him when they heard what he had to say. They said to the woman, "We're no longer taking this on your say-so. We've heard it for ourselves and know it for sure. He's the Savior of the world!"

Talk together:

- What are some of your meeting places?
- What does it mean to “meet somebody where they’re at?”
- How does Jesus do that?
- What part of the story surprised you?
- What does this story show you about Jesus?
- How do you/we meet people where they’re at, especially those who thirst? How should we?

Pray together:

We come to you now, O Lord, weary from our journey, thirsty for rest, hungry for peace. Renew us in your love and restore us by your grace, until we find our rest at last by the river of the water of life. Through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Bless one another: "God's grace is for you, God's love is upon you, God's call is within you. Be kind to yourself and others this week as a child of God."

Resources Used:

Disciplines, The Upper Room
The Message
Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal